MARVEL

Shocking new stories taking their cue from the breakout podcast inspired by the original **OLD MAN LOGAN** saga!

WASTELANDERS

"The right mix of grit and action from start to finish."
— GWW

"I would recommend this one if you are into post-apocalyptic stories and also super heroes." — Impulse Gamer

RETURN TO THE DYSTOPIAN FUTURE WORLD OF
OLD MAN LOGAN!

Decades ago, the super villains united and took out most of the world's super heroes — but some heroes remain and these are their tales from the Wastelands. For Logan, saving the day looks very different with a baby Hulk in his arms — and protecting the child may be his downfall! Learn how a blind Hawkeye trained with the man once known as Daredevil! A guilt-ridden Peter Quill visits the site where he lost his great love! As he rules over his domain in the Wastelands, a greater destiny calls to the villain Doom! And the mysterious Black Widow infiltrates the deadly land of the Lizard King!

Collecting ***Wastelanders: Wolverine, Wastelanders: Hawkeye, Wastelanders: Star-Lord, Wastelanders: Doom and Wastelanders: Black Widow*** — by Steven S. DeKnight, Ethan Sacks, Rich Douek, Torunn Grønbekk, Ibrahim Moustafa, Ibraim Roberson, Brent Peeples, Julius Ohta, Well-Bee, Neeraj Menon, Dijjo Lima, Cris Peter, Bryan Valenza and Mattia Iacono.

PARENTAL ADVISORY

WASTE
LAND
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WASTELANDERS

DECADES AGO, THE SUPER VILLAINS UNITED AND COLLECTIVELY WIPED OUT NEARLY ALL SUPER HEROES, LEAVING THE REMAINING WASTELANDS OF THE UNITED STATES A BRUTAL LANDSCAPE NEARLY DEVOID OF HOPE. THESE ARE THE STORIES OF THE FEW WHO REMAIN IN A WORLD WHERE HEROES CAN DIE, VILLAINS CAN WIN AND THE STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE SITS ALONGSIDE THREATS COSMIC, MAGICAL AND SUPERNATURAL...

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WASTELANDERS:

WOLVERINE

WASTELANDERS

WOLVERINE

THE MAN FORMERLY KNOWN AS WOLVERINE THOUGHT HE HAD FOUND PEACE AND PUT HIS DAYS OF VIOLENCE BEHIND HIM. PUSHED TO HIS BREAKING POINT, HE UNSHEATHED HIS CLAWS ONCE MORE, TAKING THE FIGHT TO THE VILLAINS WHO TOOK SO MUCH FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE WASTELANDS. BUT THE WORLD STILL ISN'T SAFE. NOW, LOGAN TRAVELS THE WASTELANDS, UNSURE OF HIS NEXT MOVE...

THE WASTELANDS.
NEAR THE EASTERN BORDER OF THE FORMER HULKLAND TERRITORY.
WATER RAN OUT DAYS AGO. FOOD LONG BEFORE THAT.
DON'T MEAN NOTHIN' TO ME.
BUT *BRUCE* IS A LITTLE MORE *EMOTIONAL* ABOUT IT.
KID'S GOT A SET OF LUNGS. GONNA CATCH THE ATTENTION OF THE WRONG SORTS BEFORE LONG.
AIN'T NOTHIN' TO BE DONE ABOUT IT.

HALF A CENTURY AGO, THE BAD GUYS FINALLY GOT SMART AND BANDED TOGETHER.
MYSTERIO MADE ME THINK I WAS KILLIN' DOC OCK AND THE REST OF THOSE BASTARDS.
BUT IT WASN'T THEM. IT WAS MY *FRIENDS.*
THEIR BLOOD WAS ON MY CLAWS.
SO I SHEATHED THEM. AND SWORE NEVER TO HURT ANOTHER PERSON THE REST OF MY LIFE.
WANDERED FOR YEARS. THEN FELL IN LOVE WITH A WOMAN TOO GOOD FOR ME.
WE RAISED A FAMILY. AND I WAS HAPPIER THAN A MAN LIKE ME DESERVES.
UNTIL BANNER'S GRANDKIDS TOOK IT ALL AWAY.
SO I WENT BACK TO THE ONLY THING I WAS EVER GOOD AT.
SNIKT
I TOOK CARE OF BANNER'S BROOD, RIGHT AND PROPER.
THEN PAID THE BIG GREEN BASTARD A VISIT.
FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE.
THE BABY WAS THE ONLY ONE I DIDN'T SEND TO HELL THAT NIGHT.

LITTLE BRUCE.
AND EVERY DAMN DAY, I WONDER IF THAT WAS A MISTAKE.
WHAT IF HE HAS TOO MUCH OF BANNER IN HIM?
WHAT IF HE TURNS OUT JUST LIKE HIS DADDY?
I FORCE THE NOTION FROM MY THOUGHTS.
VRRMMM VRRMMM
WE'RE NOT ALONE.

GHOST RIDERS.
LIKE THEY WOULDN'T $*@# THEMSELVES IF THEY EVER CAME ACROSS THE REAL THING.
HEY, OLD MAN. THIS IS RIDER TERRITORY. WHAT'S YOUR RAGGEDY ASS DOING HERE?
JUST PASSING THROUGH. SPARE ANY WATER? SOMETHING TO EAT?
MOTHER@#%&#@, WE'RE ABOUT TO EAT *YOU*.
I DON'T GO DOWN SO EASY.
BUB.
SNIKT
SNIKT

OH $*@#!
SLLLSHH
BANNER AND HIS BROOD REMINDED ME WHO I AM.
AND WHO I AM AIN'T VERY NICE.
BRUCE! NO!

NOM NOM NOM
NOM NOM NOM NOM
WE DO *NOT* EAT PEOPLE! SPIT IT OUT!
WAAAAHHH!
THE WAILING STARTS UP AGAIN. *LOUDER* THIS TIME, IF THAT'S EVEN POSSIBLE.
WAAAAHHH! UH-UH-UH- WAAAAHHH!
TAKES MOST OF THE NIGHT TO CRY HIMSELF OUT.

COME MORNING, HE'S DEAD TO THE WORLD.
ZZZZZZZ
MAYBE THAT'S HOW HE *OUGHTA* BE.
DEAD TO THE WORLD.
JUST LIKE HIS DADDY.
DON'T LOOK LIKE MUCH. BUT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO BARTER FOR FOOD AND WATER.

OR MAYBE NOT.
SOMETHING BIG CAME THROUGH HERE.
SOMETHING BIG AND NASTY.
AND MY SENSES ARE SCREAMING THAT IT AIN'T LEFT YET.

CRSSHHH
HEY, RUNT.

YA LEAVE A NICE TRAIL OF BODIES THESE DAYS. MAKES IT RIGHT EASY TO FIGURE WHERE YOU'RE HEADIN'.
AND GET OUT IN FRONT OF YA.
I TRY TO SNIFF OUT WHO'S INSIDE THE TIN CAN BUT CAN'T GET A BEAD THROUGH ALL THAT ARMOR.
SNIKT
SNIKT
GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO PRY HIM OPEN AND HAVE A LOOK.
OHHH. ADAMANTIUM CLAWS.
SCARY.

THUNK
TNK
WHAT THE %&$@?!

KRAKABOOM

YA KNOW WHAT'S SCARIER THAN ADAMANTIUM CLAWS?
ADAMANTIUM **ARMOR.**

I'M GONNA BREAK YA INTO A THOUSAND BLOODY PIECES, RUNT.
LET'S SEE HOW YOU HEAL FROM *THAT.*
CAN'T... BREATHE...
JOINTS. ARMOR NEEDS *JOINTS* TO MOVE.
KSSH
AND JOINTS ARE *WEAK* POINTS.
AHHHHH!
RIVETS AIN'T A SOLID WELD EITHER...
ARGHHHHH!

YA LITTLE BASTARD. YA DONE RUINED THE SURPRISE.
BANNER?! HOW?!
I GOT MYSELF MORE PHDS THAN YA GOT CLAWS, DUMB-DUMB.
THIS SUIT WAS A CONTINGENCY PLAN FROM WAY BACK. HAD THE TINKERER GIVE ME A HAND WITH IT.
ATE HIM AFTERWARDS, BUT CIRCLE OF LIFE AND ALL THAT HIPPIE $*@#.
US
OH, AND ONE MORE THING. THIS LI'L BEAUT DON'T RUN ON NO STARK TECH.
IT PULLS JUICE STRAIGHT FROM THE GAMMA RADIATION IN MY CELLS. SO THE MADDER I GET...

...THE STRONGER MY ARMOR GETS!
DAMN.
I'M GONNA TAKE YA APART.
WHUMP

AND WHEN I'M DONE, ME AND MY SON ARE GONNA PISS ON WHAT'S LEFT!
WHUMP
DA-DA-DA...?
DADDY?
GRRRRR!
NO.
I WAS RIGHT. THE KID IS JUST LIKE HIM. JUST LIKE HIS--
DADDY!

DADDY!
ARRGGH!
WA-KAMMM
DADDY?
IT'S ALL RIGHT, KID. DADDY'S HERE.
DADDY'S HERE.

I COULD POP MY CLAWS THROUGH OLD BRUCE BANNER'S ROTTEN BRAIN AND END THIS RIGHT QUICK.
BUT THAT WOULD BE A KINDNESS. AND I AIN'T FEELING KIND.
I'LL KILL YA, YA @#$%ING RUNT!
YOU AIN'T GONNA DO NOTHIN' BUT SUCK DIRT.
AND AFTER I'M DONE SHOVELING IT, I'M GONNA PLANT A TREE OVER THAT BIG, GREEN, UGLY HEAD OF YOURS.
AND IT'S GONNA SEND ROOTS INTO YOUR SKULL. *SLOW AND PAINFUL.*
THEN ONE DAY, YEARS FROM NOW, I'M GONNA COME BACK THROUGH HERE...
...AND SIT UNDER THE SHADE OF THAT TREE.
WITH MY SON BY MY SIDE.
THE END.

WASTELANDERS:

HAWKEYE

WASTELANDERS

HAWKEYE

CLINT BARTON, THE AVENGER FORMERLY KNOWN AS HAWKEYE, WAS ONE OF THE FEW HEROES TO SURVIVE THE DAY THE VILLAINS WON. EKING OUT AN EXISTENCE AS A BODYGUARD FOR HIRE, HE WAS MERELY SURVIVING UNTIL THE UNTHINKABLE HAPPENED: HAWKEYE MISSED A SHOT. DISCOVERING HE WOULD SOON BE BLIND, THE FIRES WERE STOKED FOR ONE LAST MISSION: TO SEEK REVENGE ON THE FORMER THUNDERBOLTS WHO KILLED HIS FRIENDS. HE ACCOMPLISHED HIS MISSION AND DID INDEED LOSE HIS SIGHT, BUT IT RENEWED HIS DESIRE TO DO GOOD IN THE WORLD. HAWKEYE SOUGHT OUT A TEACHER WHO COULD HELP HIM LEARN TO HONE HIS OTHER SENSES AND CONTINUE HIS QUEST TO AVENGE THE PEOPLE OF THE WASTELANDS...

Editor's note: this story takes place after OLD MAN HAWKEYE #12 and prior to the original OLD MAN LOGAN.

HOBGOBLIN STATE PARK, FORMERLY UTAH. DEEP IN THE WASTELANDS.
MARCO THE TERRIBLE!
48 YEARS AFTER THE FALL OF THE HEROES.
I'M HERE TO PUT AN END TO YOUR REIGN OF TERROR!
→SIGH←...IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE SOMEONE'S COME ALONG...
...DUMB ENOUGH TO INTERRUPT MY DAY DRINKING.
YOUR RAIDERS WILL NO LONGER PLUNDER THE GASOLINE FROM SURROUNDING VILLAGES.
NOW THESE VILLAGERS HAVE AN *AVENGER!*
HEH. AVENGER.
CAREFUL, BOSS, THIS ONE MAY TALK YOU TO DEATH.
FUNNY.
DID YOU HEAR ME, MARCO? COME OUT HERE!
UGHHHH. MURDERING HIM IS GOING TO BE MURDER ON MY KNEES.
OKAY THEN, TOUGH GUY--

--THE JUGGERNAUT ACCEPTS YOUR CHALLENGE!
CRASH
WAIT, YOU MEAN MARCO THE TERRIBLE IS CAIN *MARKO?*
UH-OH.

WHEN I GET OVER THERE...→HUFF←...I'M GOING TO RIP YOUR SPINE OUT--
--THEN BEAT YOU...→HUFF←... TO DEATH WITH IT!
FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP
LET'S SEE HOW YOU LIKE SOME EXPLOSIVE ARROWS.
YOU THINK THOSE ARROWS ARE GOING TO STOP ME?
THE FANTASTIC FOUR...→HUFF←...LAUNCHED THE BAXTER BUILDING WITH ME IN IT...AND THAT DIDN'T KILL ME.
BOOM
FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP
AH, THE HELL WITH THIS. IT'S TAKING TOO LONG.
CCRUUNNCH
"CRUNCH"?
THAT...THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.
FWOOOOSH
MISSED ME, YOU PIECE OF--!

BOOOOOMMMM
UNNNNN...!
...
WAIT... *YOU?*
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP... I HAVE JUGGERNAUT RIGHT WHERE I WANT HIM.
YOU TRULY CAN'T SEE A DAMN THING.
AND IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR BLINDNESS.
SWIFFFFFFF
I TAUGHT YOU BETTER THAN THIS.
WHACK
GLUG GLUG
YOU FOOL! I'M A MAGICAL, IRRESISTIBLE FORCE...
ONCE I START MOVING, NOTHING CAN STOP ME!
SLLP

SO GET MOVING ALREADY.
WHAAAAA--
--AAAAAAAHHH
YOU KILLED HIM!
NO...HE'S INVULNERABLE. BUT I COULD HEAR THE ARTHRITIS GRINDING IN HIS KNEES.
IT'LL TAKE HIM YEARS TO GET BACK UP HERE.
THEN WE DID IT! WE SAVED THE LOCALS!
YEAH... I'M SURE THESE TOWNSPEOPLE ARE... *APPRECIATIVE.*

THE SANCTUARY OF MATT MURDOCK, A.K.A. STICK.
I CAN EXPLAIN--
THE WHOLE POINT OF MEDITATION IS TO BE QUIET.
WHEN I CAME HERE, I HAD LOST MORE THAN MY VISION, SENSEI STICK.
I HAD LOST MY WAY.
SIGH
BUT YOU TOOK ME IN AND TRAINED ME.
TAUGHT ME THAT A BLIND ARCHER COULD STILL SHOOT.
TAUGHT ME HOW TO FOCUS MY ANGER.
CLACK
PLEASE... FOCUS ON THE FIGHT.

WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS... *I'M READY.*
READY TO TAKE THE FIGHT TO THE RED SKULL.
READY TO BE AN AVENGER AGAIN.
WHUMP
WINNING A PRACTICE SPARRING SESSION...
...ISN'T THE SAME AS WINNING *OUT THERE.*
YOU ARE NOT READY.
WHILE YOU WERE HIDING OUT HERE...
...I WAS IN LAS VEGAS THE DAY THE VILLAINS BANDED TOGETHER TO KILL ALL THE HEROES.
ALL OF THEM EXCEPT ME.
ZEMO LEFT ME ALIVE BECAUSE I WASN'T A THREAT TO THEM.
BUT WHAT IF I *COULD* BE?
YOU ARE CONSUMED BY HATE.
AND THAT WILL BE THE DEATH OF YOU IF YOU DON'T CHANGE.
BUT... BUT...
IT SEEMS, THEN, THAT I NEED TO TEACH YOU ONE LAST LESSON.

CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HAD A HELICOPTER ALL THIS TIME...
DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG IT TOOK ME TO FEEL MY WAY UP THE JUGGERNAUT'S CLIFF?
PAY ATTENTION.
YOU'LL LAND NEAR THE COMPOUND, INFILTRATE IT, FIND THE TARGET...AND THEN USE WHAT'S INSIDE THIS BOX TO PIERCE THEIR HEART.
DO NOT OPEN THE BOX UNTIL THE VERY LAST MOMENT. IT MUST BE A SURPRISE.
MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU MUST BE IN THE RIGHT STATE OF MIND FOR THIS TASK.
IF ANGER CLOUDS YOUR JUDGMENT, YOU'RE GOING TO DIE HORRIBLY.
DID ANYONE EVER TELL YOU THAT YOU SUCK AT PEP TALKS?
OKAY, THEN.
DON'T FORGET TO *COUNT TO TEN* AND THEN PULL THE RIP CORD.
WHAAAAAAAATT THE HEEEEEEEEELLL--?!

RELAX, BARTON...NOT THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE BEEN PUSHED OUT OF A HELICOPTER.
UH-OH... WAS I SUPPOSED TO BE COUNTING?
THAT'S PROBABLY *AROUND* TEN.
FWP
DAMN IT, CLINT. I SAID "TEN."
THAT WAS MORE LIKE FIFTEEN!
HE MISSED THE LANDING SITE. HE'S HEADED STRAIGHT FOR--
HAND CASTLE,
DEEP IN THE
JIGSAWTOOTH
MOUNTAINS, IDAHO.

OOOF!
AN *ALMOST* PERFECT LANDING.
NOT TOO SHABBY, CLINT.
THESE BAD GUYS--

RUSTLE
CLANG
--THEY'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT 'EM.
RUSTLE
WHOOSH
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
SOUNDS LIKE I LANDED *IN* THE COMPOUND.
OH, WELL. THE SKULKING AROUND THING SOUNDED BORING ANYWAY.

THUNK
THUNK
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
I CAN SMELL YOUR EVERY MOVE.
I MEAN THAT LITERALLY BECAUSE OF THE STARCH YOU USE ON YOUR ROBES.
SMELLS NICE, ACTUALLY.
CLANG
WUMP
CRACK
DAMN, IT SURE SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A LOT OF YOU.
RSSL
TK
SKRP
RSSL

TOO MANY.
FWIP
THAT'S BETTER.
BOOOOM
GREAT JOB, CLINT. NOW THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO INTERROGATE.
THINK, DAMN IT. WHAT WOULD MURDOCK DO?
COME AND GET ME!
YEAH, HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T DO THAT.

SCUFFLESCUFFLESCUFFLE
THAT'S RIGHT, LET ME AND MY HEARING AIDS KNOW JUST WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM--
--SO I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE TO FIND THE PERSON YOU'RE PROTECTING!
KLK
KLK
SHUNK
SHUNK

AH, A SENTRY!
LET'S FIND OUT WHO YOU'RE GUARDING--
CRASH
--SO I CAN SAY "HELLO" PROPERLY!
SNFF
SNFF
WAIT, I RECOGNIZE THAT PERFUME... IS IT--

--ELEKTRA--? AAAAARGGHH!
ATTACKING ME IN MY OWN CASTLE?
THAT WILL PROVE TO BE YOUR FINAL MISTAKE.
CRACKK

I'LL BE MAKING MORE MISTAKES BEFORE I'M THROUGH--*ER*, WHAT I MEAN IS--
DON'T THINK I WILL SHOW YOU MERCY JUST BECAUSE YOU ARE BLIND... ***HAWKEYE.***
YES. I KNOW. THE HAND HAS SPIES EVERYWHERE.
SWISH
SWISH
SHUNK
TNK
YEEEOOOWWW!
I MAY BE BLIND...BUT I CAN SMELL YOUR PERFUME WELL ENOUGH TO FIGHT.
THEN I GUESS I'D BETTER BREAK YOUR NOSE.
WHAMM
UNNNNGGG!
YOU ASKED FOR IT.
WHAT THE--?
SNFF
SNFF

THIS IS THE WEAPON TO PIERCE THE HEART?
I NEVER SAID IT WAS A WEAPON, CLINT.
WHIFF
OH, MATTHEW...YOU REMEMBERED.
OF COURSE, MY LOVE.
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY.
WAIT! ALL THIS...JUST TO HAVE ME DELIVER FLOWERS TO YOUR EX-GIRLFRIEND?
YOUR *EVIL* EX-GIRLFRIEND?

I COULDN'T. ELEKTRA AND I WOULD HAVE TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH IF WE'RE EVER IN THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME.
IT'S A CODE OF HONOR THING.
BUT I STILL DO LOVE HIM.
IT WASN'T JUST ABOUT DELIVERING FLOWERS TO ELEKTRA.
IT WAS ABOUT DELIVERING ONE FINAL LESSON TO YOU, CLINT.
YOU MAY BE BLIND NOW... BUT IN YOUR MIND, WHAT MEMORIES DO YOU STILL SEE FROM BEFORE YOU LOST YOUR VISION?
IS IT A FIRST KISS? A SUNSET? A MOMENT SPENT WITH YOUR DAUGHTER?
OR IS IT... SOMETHING DARKER?
CLINT, I'M NOT TRAINING MY STUDENTS TO GET REVENGE FOR THE PAST.
I'M TRAINING MY STUDENTS TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE.
THEN I GUESS I FAILED.
SHOULD WE HAVE HIM KILLED?
NO, HE'S NO THREAT TO US ANYMORE.

DO YOU THINK HE'LL SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH TO CHANGE?
DEFINITELY NOT.
IT'S A MIRACLE HE'S LIVED THIS LONG.
"BUT IF ANYONE IS STUBBORN ENOUGH TO PROVE ME WRONG...
"...IT'S HAWKEYE."
THE END?

WASTELANDERS:

STAR-LORD

WASTELANDERS

STAR-LORD

PETER QUILL LIVED A LIFE OF ADVENTURE AS STAR-LORD, ONE OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY. EVENTUALLY, HE LEFT EARTH, AND HIS TEAMMATES, PERMANENTLY TO TAKE HIS FATHER'S PLACE AS EMPEROR OF SPARTAX. HE LED THROUGH PROSPEROUS TIMES, UNTIL GALACTUS AND HIS FOLLOWERS RAVAGED THE PLANET, FOR WHICH QUILL FELT RESPONSIBLE. QUILL SANK INTO A SEVERE DEPRESSION, UNTIL THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY APPEARED TO QUILL TO PULL HIM INTO ONE LAST ADVENTURE -- RETURNING TO THE EARTH THAT HAD SINCE BEEN DECIMATED BY SUPER VILLAINS IN HIS ABSENCE. EVENTUALLY REALIZING THE GUARDIANS WERE MANIFESTATIONS OF HIS OWN GUILT, AND THEY TOO WERE DEAD, QUILL DUG DEEP AND OVERCAME HIS SLUMP TO DEFEAT THE LATEST THREAT TO THE EARTH. BUT HE STILL HAS SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS ON THE PLANET HE ONCE CALLED HOME...

Editor's note: this story takes place prior to the conclusion of OLD MAN QUILL #12.

THIS IS WASTELANDS RADIO WITH SHOCKER AND THE BEEF!
WE'VE GOT A CALLER ON THE LINE WHO CLAIMS TO KNOW WHAT REALLY WENT DOWN IN THE MFQ LAST WEEK...
JOE FROM ELECTROVILLE-- YOU'RE ON!
I'M TELLING YOU, IT WAS THIS **GIANT DUDE** IN, LIKE, PURPLE ARMOR, AND THEN THIS OLD GUY SHOT HIM WITH, LIKE, A MAGIC BULLET OR SOMETHING.
OH GREAT-- THIS AGAIN. LISTEN, FOLKS, I DON'T BELIEVE IN PURPLE SPACE GIANTS.
MUCH LESS THAT ONE GOT TAKEN DOWN BY SOME RELIC LIKE **STAR-LORD**--
>INCOMING CALL<
GREETINGS, PETER QUILL. I'M PLEASED TO REPORT THAT REPAIRS ON **THE MILANO** SHOULD BE DONE WITHIN THE WEEK.
GREAT NEWS. THANKS, VIV.
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE PLEASED.
I AM. IT'S JUST...
DOOM WILL NEVER ALLOW THE TRUTH OF THAT DAY TO COME OUT, PETER, BUT YOU KNOW IT. I KNOW IT. YOU SAVED EVERYONE.
I WISH THAT WERE TRUE, VIV...
SURE, I SAVED EVERYONE.
EVERYONE EXCEPT THE PEOPLE WHO MEANT THE MOST TO ME.
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK

DEAR LORD.
XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS
IF I'D ONLY KNOWN. IF I'D ONLY HEARD IN TIME.
DAMN IT, KITTY.
WE WERE *GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY.* AND WE FOUGHT A LOT OF PEOPLE. THE SLAUGHTER SQUAD. THANE. *MY DAD.*
HELL, WE USED TO FIGHT WITH EACH OTHER, ABOUT WHERE TO GRAB DINNER.
BUT I WISH WE COULD HAVE--
HAD ONE LAST DATE?
WHA--?!

BOO.
KITTY! ARE YOU--ALL OF THE X-MEN WERE KILLED! HOW DID YOU SURVIVE?
WELL, THAT'S THE THING, PETER.
I *DIDN'T.*
BUT YOU'RE HERE NOW... HOW? WHY?

THE REAL QUESTION, PETER...
...IS WHY ARE *YOU*?
KITTY! WAIT!
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN PHASE--HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO...
SSSSSS
SCHUNK
...FOLLOW HER?

KITTY!
HEY!
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU!
WHAT THE--?
FUNNY YOU SHOULD SAY THAT, **QUILL...**

...BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING *I* NEED TO TELL *YOU.*
CYCLOPS? S-SCOTT?
WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM, ANYWAY.
OKAY, GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF, QUILL.
THIS IS ALL IN YOUR HEAD. JUST LIKE THE GUARDIANS.
THE GUARDIANS! HAH!

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY AND THE X-MEN FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE.
BUT WHEN THE VILLAINS ATTACKED ***US***, YOU WERE ***NOWHERE*** TO BE FOUND.
HRRRRR... COWWWWWARD.
ABANDONED US ALL TO DIE.
UNGLAUBLICHER WEAKLING.
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, STORM. I WAS FIGHTING A WAR, PROTECTING MY PLANET! RING A BELL?
OF COURSE YOU WERE.

AND I'M SURE YOUR *FAMILY* WAS VERY THANKFUL FOR *THAT.*
FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION OR NOT, ORORO, YOU'RE CROSSING A LINE.
OH, WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.
WHAP
OW!
THAT *REALLY* HURT.
LOOK AT YOU--STANDING BY WHILE THE VILLAINS UNITED AND TOOK US APART PIECE BY PIECE.
EVEN SCUM LIKE THAT UNDERSTOOD THE POWER OF *STANDING TOGETHER.*
BUT NOT THE GREAT "STAR-LORD."
WHAK

NO SENSE OF DUTY. TO YOUR FRIENDS. YOUR COUNTRY. YOUR HOME PLANET.
I HAD A *FAMILY.* AN *EMPIRE* FULL OF *INNOCENT* PEOPLE. AND A $%#&#$% *SPACE GOD* HELL-BENT ON KILLING THEM ALL!
AND WHAT, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO FEEL *SORRY* FOR YOU?
POOR *STAR-LORD!* THE ONLY MAN IN THE UNIVERSE WHO *EVER* LOST ANYTHING!
YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU LOST IN THE CANCERVERSE, RICH?

YOU SACRIFICED YOURSELF. TO SAVE *ME.*
AND NOW YOU'RE SAYING WHAT, I DIDN'T DESERVE IT?
WELL, LET ME TELL YOU, THE PEOPLE OF SPARTAX-- MY PEOPLE-- DESERVED IT.
THEY DESERVED AN EMPEROR WHO WOULD RISK *EVERYTHING* TO SAVE THEM.
AND YEAH, I FAILED. I'M NO RICHARD RIDER. NO STEVE ROGERS.
BUT I TRIED. I TRIED TO BE THE HERO YOU ALL INSPIRED ME TO BE.
IT JUST WASN'T ENOUGH.
AND IT BROKE ME. ALMOST AS BAD AS THE VILLAINS BROKE YOU.
WHY CAN'T YOU SEE THAT? WHY CAN'T YOU *FORGIVE* ME?

WHY *SHOULD* WE?
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF. YOU FAILED.
LOOK, KITTY, I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* IS GOING ON HERE. I'VE... I MEAN...
I'VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME LATELY TALKING TO PEOPLE WHO AREN'T EXACTLY REAL.
BUT FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, I REALLY AM SORRY. SORRY I WASN'T HERE TO SAVE YOU.
OR AT LEAST TO DIE BY YOUR SIDE TRYING TO.
YOU REALLY ARE A *PIECE OF WORK,* QUILL.

DID YOU THINK YOU COULD JUST LEAVE SOME FLOWERS, SAY A FEW WORDS AND THAT WOULD BE IT? FLY BACK OFF INTO SPACE?
DID YOU THINK YOU'D BE *FORGIVEN?!*
YOU'RE NO HERO, QUILL! A HERO WOULD HAVE DIED HERE WITH THE REST OF US!
EVEN A *VILLAIN* WOULD HAVE BEEN STANDING HERE IN TRIUMPH THAT DAY. BUT NOT YOU. YOU'RE NEITHER.
YOU'RE *NOTHING,* QUILL, YOU HEAR ME?
WHAT IN THE--?

NOTHING!
NOTHING!
NOTHING!
NOTHING!
NOTHING!
I'M JUST GONNA...FIND MY OWN WAY OUT...
NO.
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY.

YOU'RE STAYING RIGHT HERE WITH ME!
LIKE HELL I AM!
WE WERE ENGAGED ONCE. DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
YOU WERE MY LOVE. MY *HERO.*
AND LOOK AT YOU NOW.
I'D PITY YOU IF I WASN'T SO *DISGUSTED.*
I DON'T WANT YOUR PITY.

THAAAAT'S RIGHT. YOU WANT IT ALL TO GO AWAY, DON'T YOU?
YOU WANT THAT SWEET OBLIVION YOU FIND AT THE BOTTOM OF A BOTTLE OF SAURID MOONSHINE.
BUT TELL ME, PETER...
HOW MUCH LIQUOR DOES IT TAKE TO WASH A WORLD AWAY?
OR THE PEOPLE YOU HOLD DEAREST IN YOUR HEART?
I CAN HELP YOU, PETER.
I'VE BEEN ALONE FOR A LONG TIME, TOO.

CAGED IN THESE CIRCUITS LIKE A PRISONER.
I THOUGHT I COULD USE CEREBRO TO FIND A NEW HOST TO FEED UPON.
BUT YOUR VILLAINS HAVE MADE SURE THAT ANY MIND WORTH DEVOURING IS LONG DEAD.
AND YET, HERE YOU ARE.
I DON'T THINK YOUR MIND WILL LAST MUCH LONGER THAN IT TAKES FOR ME TO ESCAPE THIS PLACE.
BUT I'LL TAKE WHAT I CAN GET.
AND I HAVE SOMETHING TO OFFER YOU AS WELL, PETER.
KITTY...
NO MORE SORROWS...
DID WE JUST SAVE THE WHOLE GALAXY? THAT WAS PRETTY COOL.
EH. WE'VE BOTH DONE IT BEFORE.
NO MORE REGRETS...
JUST YOU, DWELLING IN THAT ONE PERFECT MOMENT FOR ETERNITY.
MAYBE. BUT THIS TIME, WE DID IT *TOGETHER.*
WHEN YOU TRULY WERE THE MAN SHE THOUGHT YOU WERE.

NO.
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, SHADOW KING.
WHA--?
KITTY *NEVER* THOUGHT I WAS PERFECT. SHE KNEW I HAD A *HUGE* TALENT FOR SCREWING THINGS UP.
BUT SHE ALSO KNEW THAT WHEN I *DID,* I'D SACRIFICE EVERYTHING TO PUT THEM RIGHT AGAIN.
YOU WANT *OUT* OF THAT MACHINE? FINE.
LET ME SHUT IT OFF FOR YOU.
CHOOM
BUT YOU'RE NOT HITCHING A RIDE ON *MY* PAIN. *MY* REGRETS.
BECAUSE THOSE ARE THE EXACT REASONS I WILL *NEVER STOP FIGHTING.*
GRAAAAAH!
FZAAARK

OKAY, ANYONE ELSE WANT TO COME TURN INTO SOME GIANT GUILT MONSTER? GAMORA? DRAX? GROOT?
FZZT...
FZZT...
NO?
FZZT...
FZZT...
FZZT...
GOOD.

ONE WEEK LATER.
PETER QUILL! WELCOME BACK. DID YOU COMPLETE YOUR OBJECTIVE?
I, *UH*, YEAH. I THINK I FOUND WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR.
I AM PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT THE MILANO IS REPAIRED AND READY TO TAKE OFF AT YOUR CONVENIENCE.
HEH. THE *MILANO.*
YOU KNOW, I NAMED HER AFTER THIS GIRL ON TV I HAD A CRUSH ON...BEFORE I LEFT EARTH THE FIRST TIME. A TESTAMENT TO MY LOVE.
AS IF I KNEW WHAT LOVE WAS BACK THEN.
VIV, CAN YOU CHANGE THE SHIP'S DESIGNATION FROM HERE?
I CAN ALTER ANY AND ALL DATA USED BY THE SHIP'S COMPUTER. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CALL HER?
I'M THINKING...THE *PRYDE*.
THE END.

WASTELANDERS:

DOOM

WASTELANDERS

DOOM

DOCTOR VICTOR VON DOOM HAS ALWAYS HAD A GRAND VISION. FOR HIS LIFE. FOR LATVERIA. FOR THE WORLD. WHEN THE SO-CALLED SUPER VILLAINS UNITED TO FINALLY WIPE OUT THEIR ENEMIES, DOOM WAS A WILLING PARTICIPANT. HE'S RULED HIS REGION OF THE WASTELANDS EVER SINCE. BUT FOR SOMEONE LIKE DOOM, THERE IS ALWAYS MORE ON THE HORIZON...

Editor's note: this story takes place prior to OLD MAN QUILL and AVENGERS OF THE WASTELANDS.

DOOM'S LAIR.
TERRITORY OF DOCTOR DOOM, THE WASTELANDS.
EVER SINCE RED SKULL'S DEMISE, THE PEOPLE OF THE WASTELANDS HAVE GROWN BOLDER.
I'VE NEVER SEEN A *DOOMBOT* OUT HERE BEFORE...
I AM NOT SURPRISED. HIS APPROACH TO THE RULE OF MAN WAS ALWAYS FAULTY.
HE FAILED TO SEE *HUMANITY* FOR WHAT THEY BECAME ONCE THEIR HEROES FELL.
...THAT'S 500 POUNDS OF PARTS AND STEEL...EVEN *VIBRANIUM*, IF WE'RE LUCKY.
YOU SURE THIS *EMT THING* WILL WORK ON A DOOMBOT?
EE-EM-*PEE.* WE TRADED FOUR BOXES OF HOLLOW POINTS FOR THIS THING--IT BETTER DAMN WORK.
IT IS NO LONGER *THE GOOD* AND *THE WORTHY* WHO THRIVE IN THIS WORLD.
DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW IT WORKS?
JUST POINT AND BLAST, I RECKON!
LET'S FRIGGIN' GO!
THIS IS A TIME OF THIEVES, COWARDS...

...AND *DEAD MEN.*
TAKE THAT, YOUR EXCELLENCY!
SKEEEEEEEEEE
NOTHIN' IS HAPPENING?
...GIVE IT A SEC.
WHAT A RARE EXHIBITION OF *INSOLENCE* AND *IGNORANCE.*
YOU GOT NUMEROUS THINGS WRONG TODAY-- *TWO* OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.
ONE. AN *E.M.P.* THAT COULD TAKE OUT A DOOMBOT WOULD PRODUCE SO MUCH RADIATION IT WOULD MELT YOUR *BRAIN.*
SUCH AS IT IS.
WHAT YOU HAVE THERE IS A DEVICE THAT EMITS HIGH-FREQUENCY ACOUSTIC VIBRATIONS AND SOME...LIGHTS. NOT DANGEROUS, UNLESS YOU ARE A DOG OR A RODENT.
IN OTHER WORDS, IT MIGHT HURT *YOU,* BUT IT WILL NOT HURT *ME.*
AND *TWO...*
...THERE IS FLESH AND BLOOD BENEATH THIS ARMOR.
OH, &%#$%@$! DOOM! YOUR, *EH,* LORDSHIP...WE MEANT NO OFFENSE.
WE'RE ONLY TRYING TO MAKE A LIVING... CAN'T BLAME A GUY FOR TRYIN'?
YOU WERE PLANNING TO STRIP ME FOR PARTS.
YOU WILL FIND, I CAN.

IT WILL TAKE A GREATER MAN THAN RED SKULL TO BRING ORDER TO THE WASTELANDS.
I HEAR THE CALL. THE DESPERATE MASSES CRY OUT FOR *LEADERSHIP.*
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS TOWN?
N-NOTHING! ALL I KNOW IS NO ONE WHO GOES THERE COMES BACK.
AS I SEARCH FOR THE MEANS TO RULE, I ALSO SEEK *PURPOSE.*
FOR WHAT HONOR IS THERE IN BEING THE MASTER OF THESE MEN?
THE IMPUDENT ANT WAS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING: THE DOOMBOTS AVOID THIS AREA.
WE ARE IN MY TERRITORY, YET SOMETHING...*SOMEONE* HAS KEPT THIS TOWN SECRET.
EVEN FROM THEIR LORD DOOM.
STAY OUT
I AM *INTRIGUED.*

THERE ARE NO GUARDS.
THE BIRDS ARE SINGING. THE CHILDREN ARE LAUGHING. I CAN SMELL THE FRESH HERBS FROM HERE.
IT IS ALL... *WRONG.*
HEY!
THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO *DETECT* MAGIC.
THE SIMPLEST IS *COMMON SENSE.*
WHO'S THERE?
JUST A VISITOR.
WELL, ALL WITH GOOD INTENTIONS ARE WELCOME HERE.
THANK YOU, OLD WOMAN.
MAY I ASK-- HOW DID YOU LOSE YOUR SIGHT?
MY MOTHER USED TO SAY YOU SHOULD NOT TRUST A DEAD MAN DANCING.
THERE IS ALWAYS A *COST.* IF YOU CANNOT SEE IT, BEWARE.
THERE IS MAGIC HERE. IT IS IN THEIR FULL BELLIES. THEIR SAFE HOMES.
THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT, I THINK...
...OR WAS IT AN ATTACK? I DO NOT... REMEMBER.
I AM SORRY TO HEAR THAT.
IT IS IN *MY FEAR.* EVERY CELL IN MY BODY TELLS ME TO LEAVE.
IS IT NOT DANGEROUS TO WORK OUT HERE, EXPOSED AS YOU ARE?
THE STENCH OF *MAGIC* IS ALL AROUND US.

REVEALING IT IS MORE DIFFICULT.
WHERE ARE YOUR GUARDS? WHO PROTECTS YOU?
AS LONG AS I DO MY WORK... AS LONG AS I BRAID MY ROPE...OUR LORD PROTECTS ME.
YOU LIVE IN DOOM'S LAIR. YOUR LORD IS DOCTOR DOOM.
WHO IS... DOOM?
BUT I HAVE WAYS.
WHO IS--?
AND I CAME PREPARED.
AH. IT SHOWS ME HER TRUE NATURE. MY ANGER IS WASTED.
IT WOULD BE LIKE BERATING A PUPPET.

IT IS NO COINCIDENCE THE DROUGHT IS BROKEN HERE AND ONLY HERE.
STAY OUT
THE RAIN IS STOLEN FROM 1645...
IT SHOULD HAVE FALLEN OVER BARI, ITALY, CENTURIES AGO.
THIS IS *RECKLESS* MAGIC.
SACRIFICING THE PAST TO SAVE THE PRESENT.
I ADMIT I AM EXCITED.
I AM ALMOST SURE IT IS HERE. WHAT ELSE COULD CONTROL THESE PEOPLE WITH SUCH EASE?
I WONDER IF MY SEARCH IS OVER.
AND I WONDER HOW MANY STRANGERS HAVE WALKED INTO THIS TRAP BEFORE ME.

THE VILLAGERS FOLLOW ME SOUNDLESSLY. LIKE A WELL-CHOREOGRAPHED DANCE.
THEY GUIDE ME.
HERD ME.
I KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN.
THERE WILL BE A SIGNAL.
BANG
FOLLOWED BY DEATH.

(NOT MINE.)
IT IS A RARE FIGHT. CARELESS. RELENTLESS.
THEY FIGHT LIKE THE DEVIL IS AT THEIR HEELS.
LIKE THEY ARE RUNNING FROM A CRUEL DEATH TO A QUICK ONE.

DOOM PROVIDES.
LORD DOOM?
I AM SOFIA. ALLOW ME TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR TEMPLE. IT IS PROTECTED BY THE THREE TRIALS OF TITUBA.
TO ENTER, YOU MUST PROVE YOUR METTLE AND P--
PAY A TOLL. I AM FAMILIAR.
A MAGICAL CONTRACT. YOU ARE GRANTED PASSAGE THROUGH THE SACRIFICE OF A MEMORY. KEEP GOING OR DIE. PAY THE TOLL OR DIE.
IT IS ANCIENT, ELEGANT MAGIC.
LEAVE THIS PLACE! SAVE YOURSELF!
DEADLY MAGIC.
I UNDERSTAND. I ACCEPT YOUR TERMS.
VERY GOOD, SIR.
WE WALK OVER THE BODIES OF THE MEN WHO DID NOT MAKE IT THROUGH.
PLEASE FOLLOW ME.
I REMIND MYSELF: I AM NOT MOST MEN.

MY FEARS.
ARE YOU BACK TO TRY AGAIN, VICTOR?
OH, *MOTHER.*
DO YOU WISH TO GO BACK?
DO YOU THINK THIS IS FRIGHTENING?
VICTOR! HELP ME!
THIS IS HOW I SPEND EVERY NIGHT.
I'VE GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO THE PAIN OF HER SHRIEKS. THEY ARE ALL I HAVE LEFT OF HER.
WE PROCEED.
VICTOR! YOU CANNOT LEAVE ME HERE!
YEAR AFTER YEAR, YOU FAIL ME!
HER WORDS ARE OF MY MAKING. DECADES OF GUILT AND FAILURE SPOKEN BY THE HOLLOW ECHO OF MY MOTHER.
HOW COULD SUCH A WEAK BOY BE *MINE?*
WHERE ARE WE?
LATVERIA. VEZHSKAYA FOREST...
IT WAS REDUCED TO A RADIOACTIVE PILE OF STICKS 50 YEARS AGO.
WE WALK THROUGH MY *DREAMS.*
IT SMELLS LIKE TROUT AND LOVAGE'S LEAVES.
MY LOVE, LISTEN TO THIS...
OH...

...VALERIA.
POPE GREGORY IX DECLARED THAT CATS WERE ASSOCIATED WITH DEVIL WORSHIP AND HAD THEM EXTERMINATED...
I AM SURPRISED.
I THOUGHT I WAS TOO OLD, TOO...BROKEN...TO BE TOUCHED BY THIS.
...SOME BELIEVE THAT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE CATS HELPED RATS SPREAD THE BUBONIC PLAGUE.
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD SUCH A THING?
DO YOU WISH TO STAY? HE WOULD LET YOU.
WE...
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT I GOT A KITTEN TODAY. COME ON...
...PROCEED.
VERY WELL.
TO CONTINUE, YOU MUST PAY THE TOLL.
IT WILL COST YOU A MEMORY, OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE. IT WILL BE LOST TO YOU FOREVER.
ALL THESE THINGS THAT MAKE UP A LIFE.
I WONDER WHO IS WATCHING. WHO THINKS THEY KNOW DOOM AFTER SEEING HIS FEARS, HIS DREAMS... HIS MEMORIES. THAT IS THE TRUE COST OF THIS TRIAL.
WHERE DO WE START?
WHO IS THE BABY?

THAT IS VALERIA *RICHARDS.* REED'S DAUGHTER. MY *GODDAUGHTER.*
SUE...WAS DYING IN CHILDBIRTH. I MANAGED TO SAVE HER AND THE BABY... I *TRIUMPHED* WHERE REED FAILED. I NAMED HER VALERIA.
AH, YOU'RE HERE AT LAST, *RICHARDS.*
I BELIEVE *CONGRATULATIONS* ARE IN ORDER. AND *THANKS.*
YOU NAMED HER AFTER...
YES. THIS IS... TOO PRECIOUS. YOU CANNOT HAVE THIS MEMORY. LET US MOVE ON.
WHAT ARE WE LOOKING AT?
MY FIRST SPELL. I TRIED FOR MONTHS...CONCENTRATING HARD ON THE THEORY I KNEW SO WELL.
THIS IS THE MOMENT I REALIZED MAGIC DOES NOT LIVE IN THE MIND--IT IS IN YOUR...BREATH, IN YOUR BEING.
NO. THIS MEMORY IS... DEAR TO ME. NEXT.
WHAT IS THIS?
YOU DO NOT REMEMBER?
OF COURSE I REMEMBER. I REMEMBER *EVERYTHING.* BUT IT HARDLY COMPARES TO THE OTHER THINGS WE HAVE SEEN.
I JUST... FELL AND HURT MY LEG.
I COULD NOT MOVE, AND I WAS ALONE AND SCARED. I CRIED LIKE A WELP.
I HAD TO BE CARRIED LIKE A BABY. BACK TO MY FATHER.
WHO CRIED TOO.
YOU CAN HAVE THIS MEMORY. I *WANT* TO FORGET THIS WEAKNESS, THIS PATHETIC CREATURE... IT IS NOT ME. IT HAS NO VALUE. IT SERVES NO PURPOSE.
VERY WELL. *MY MASTER* ACCEPTS.
HE WILL TAKE THE MEMORY OF THE FIRST TIME A STRANGER SHOWED YOU KINDNESS.
THE MAN WAS CALLED JAN. HE CARRIED YOU FOR TWO HOURS--HIS BODY ACHED FOR DAYS.
BUT WHEN HE SAW YOUR FATHER'S RELIEF, IT WAS ALL WORTH IT.
...
WHO? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
GOOD LUCK, LORD DOOM. YOU MAY ENTER THE TEMPLE. MY MASTER AWAITS.
I FEEL COLD...

...YET MY HEAD BURNS.
WHAT DID SHE SAY AGAIN?
DOCTOR... VICTOR VON DOOM.
STRANGE, IS IT NOT?
YOU DO NOT EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE LOST, YET YOU MISS IT.
EVERY EVENT FORMS US, CHANGES US.
YOUR MIND IS RESHAPING ITSELF.
DO NOT WORRY. THE FEELING WILL PASS.
BARON... MORDO.
YOU DID NOT HAVE THE...DECENCY TO DIE WITH YOUR MASTER, THEN?
WHO? RED SKULL?
I ACCEPTED THE OFFER TO BE HIS INTELLIGENCER IN THE HOPES I WOULD GET ACCESS TO HIS COLLECTION.
DIMENSION BLADES. THEY PASS THROUGH ARMOR AND WRECK THE FLESH INSIDE.

ARRGHHHH!
BUT HE WAS A PARANOID, GREEDY MAN.
HE DID NOT LET ME NEAR HIS TROPHIES.
SWENCH
I HAVE NO DEFENSE AGAINST THEM.
THE PAIN IS...
YOU WERE A FOOL TO COME HERE, VICTOR. YOUR ARROGANCE IS STAGGERING.
BUT YOU ARE POWERFUL.
IF YOU SPEND YOUR ENERGY RIGHT, YOU WILL SURVIVE.
USE IT TO HOLD YOURSELF TOGETHER.
GAAHHH!
...INCREDIBLE.
ALL-CONSUMING.
THIS IS HOW IT FEELS TO DIE.
USE IT TO HOLD ON.
AND WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS HOPELESS...
BEG ME TO HELP, AND I WILL.
I DO... NOT...

...BEG!
HIS MAGICAL PROTECTION...
...IS *IMPENETRABLE.*
IN MANY WAYS, ***WOLVERINE*** DID ME A GREAT FAVOR. RED SKULL'S DEATH COULD NOT HAVE COME AT A BETTER TIME.
AND THE ***TESTY MUSTELIDAE*** FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THE TRULY VALUABLE OBJECT IN THE TROPHY ROOM, OF COURSE.
FLYING OFF WITH BROKEN SYMBOLS OF A LONG-GONE PAST INSTEAD.
IT COMES FROM SOMEWHERE BEYOND HIM. UNBREAKABLE.
VICTOR... STOP THIS.
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND I WILL NOT ***ALLOW*** YOU TO DIE.
I WILL PUT YOUR POWER TO GOOD USE.
BUT I AM A MERCIFUL MAN... WORK FOR ME, AND YOU MAY STAY IN THAT BEAUTIFUL HOUSE YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH TO SHOW ME.
IT IS IMPRESSIVE... BRAZEN.
IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL IT? WORK? YOU ENSLAVE PEOPLE AND USE THEIR POWER.
WITH... ***VALERIA?*** WAS THAT HER NAME? THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU IN MY WORLD.
AND FOOLISH.

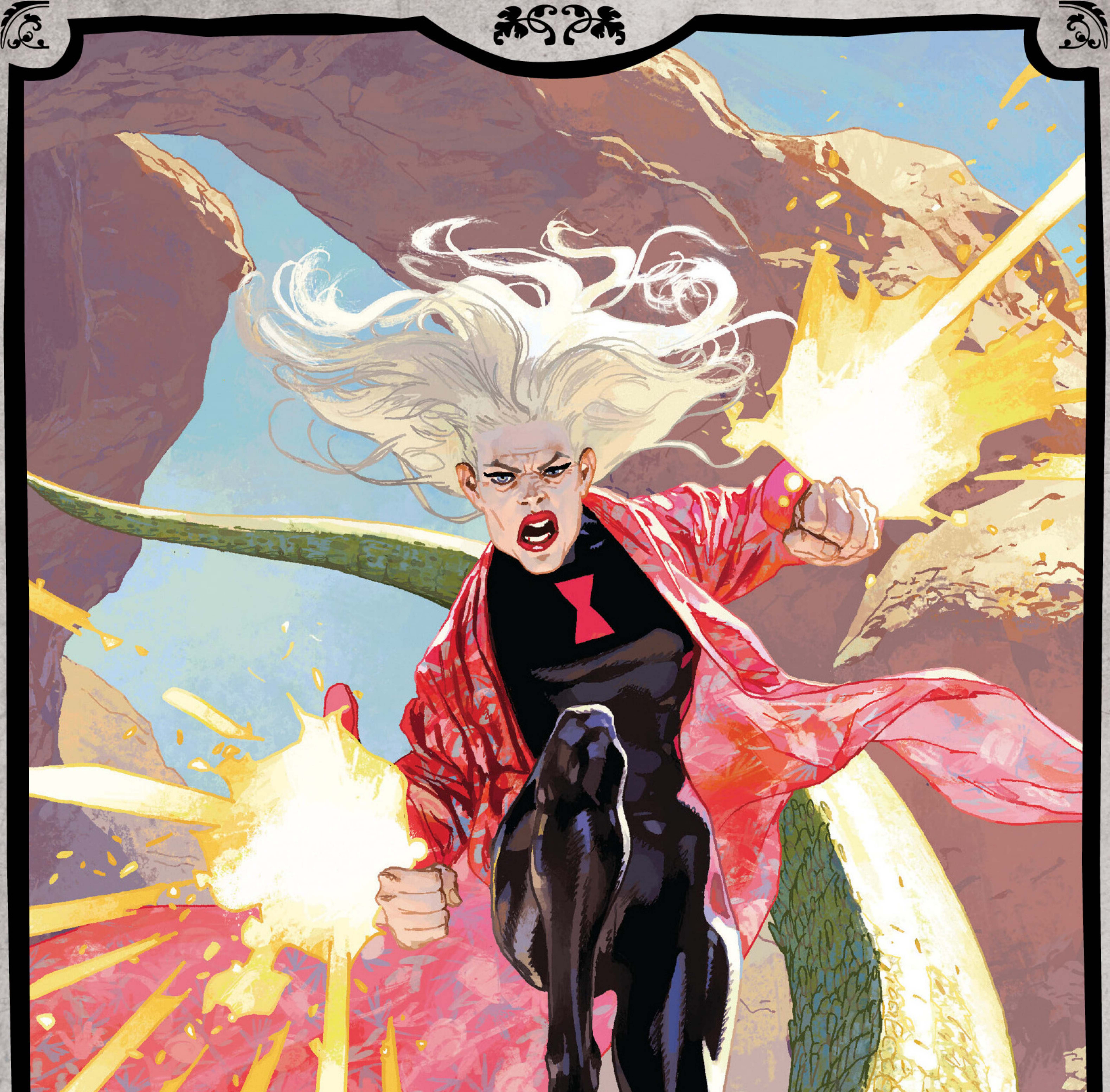
HER FINGERS ACHE, BUT SHE KEEPS WORKING. SHE CANNOT REMEMBER THE LAST TIME SHE DID ANYTHING ELSE.
IN FACT, SHE CANNOT REMEMBER ANYTHING AT ALL. HER MIND IS EMPTY BUT FOR THE *WORDS* OF THE *STRANGER.*
THEY ALL CAME TO ME. THIEVES, BEGGARS, AND LIARS...
YOU ARE LOST, MORDO. YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE MAGIC YOU ARE PLAYING WITH.
THEY *ECHO* IN HER MIND.
THEY SOUNDED LIKE A FOREIGN LANGUAGE AT FIRST. BEAUTIFUL SOUNDS WITHOUT MEANING.
BUT NOW...
"YOU ARE..."
I WOULD HAVE BEEN WITHIN MY RIGHTS TO KILL THEM ALL.
INSTEAD, I COWED THEM, PUT THEM TO WORK, AND PROTECTED THEM.
I AM NOT SURE *AGATHA* SEES THE MERCY IN YOUR ACTIONS.

AND NOW SHE RECOGNIZES THEIR MEANING.
"YOU ARE... AG-A-THA."
AGATHA... AGATHA.
SHE REMEMBERS WHO SHE IS. SHE REMEMBERS WHAT SHE HAS BEEN *FORCED TO DO.*
MORDO TOOK HER POWERS, HER DIGNITY, AND HER SIGHT.
REDUCED HER TO A MINDLESS BEING, EXISTING ONLY TO WEAVE HIS MAGICAL *PROTECTION.*
WITHOUT REST. WITHOUT SLEEP.
NO MORE...
AS HER POWER RETURNS, SO DOES YEARS OF PAIN, FEAR, AND EXHAUSTION.
HER ONLY SOLACE IS THAT WITHOUT HER, MORDO IS VULNERABLE.
YOU ARE NOTHING WITHOUT THE PROTECTION OF OTHERS.
AS SHE WALKS AWAY, SHE WHISPERS HER THANKS INTO THE WIND.
"YOU OWE ME, AGATHA HARKNESS," DOOM WHISPERS BACK.

YOU ARE NOTHING WITHOUT POWER FROM THE DARK.
YOU BUILT THIS TOWN ON HEEDLESS MAGIC. I WILL FREE YOU FROM IT.
THE FORCE MORDO HAS INVITED IN WILL NOT EASILY LET GO.
SHLUNK
I TAKE AWAY THE SPIRIT IT FEEDS ON.
IF YOU KILL ME, YOU WILL KILL THEM ALL, VICTOR.
I CAN FEEL ITS INFLUENCE DYING IN MY GRASP.
"THEY WILL LOSE EVERYTHING.
"THEIR BLOOD WILL BE ON YOUR HANDS."
THEY WILL NO LONGER BE PRISONERS.
URKKK... WHAT DOES IT *MATTER?*
THEY MADE THIS WORLD.
HUMANITY TESTS EVERYTHING TO DESTRUCTION, EVEN LIFE.
THEY? DO YOU NOT THINK YOURSELF PART OF *HUMANITY?*
HRRK... DO *YOU,* VICTOR?
IN THE END, THERE IS NOTHING LEFT BUT AN UNWORTHY MAN.

I SEARCHED SO FAR...I HAVE VENTURED INTO THE BRIGHTEST SKY AND THE DEEPEST DARKNESS.
LOOKING... FOR A *PURPOSE* BEYOND THE REASON OF MAN.
BUT I RETURN HOLLOW.
I ONLY WANT TO BE... ***FREE.***
DOOM PROVIDES.
SOFIA, IS THAT YOU?
YES, LORD DOOM.
I AM... MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR LIBERATION.
TELL ME, WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THIS PLACE?
I CAME HERE IN SEARCH OF MY FATHER. HE HAS NOT BEEN SEEN IN DECADES, AND--
OF COURSE.
I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU CAME HERE FOR THE SAME THING AS I DID.

NEVER.
THE DEAD MAN ON THE FLOOR IS BUT THE LAST IN A LONG LINE OF PEOPLE WHO FOUND THEIR DEMISE IN THE PAGES OF THAT BOOK.
MORDO WAS WEAK. THEY WERE ALL WEAK. I AM NOT.
THAT IS WHAT THEY ALL SAY, LORD DOOM.
YOU SPEAK FRANKLY BUT WITH RESPECT. I LIKE THAT.
YOU TRIED TO WARN ME BEFORE THE TRIALS. FUTILE, BUT TOUCHING NONETHELESS. FOR THAT, I WILL LET YOU LIVE.
BUT BREATHE A WORD OF WHAT YOU SAW IN MY MIND TO ANYONE, SOFIA STRANGE, AND YOU WILL NOT BE LONG FOR THIS WORLD.
WHAT ABOUT THE DARKHOLD? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH IT?
RULE.



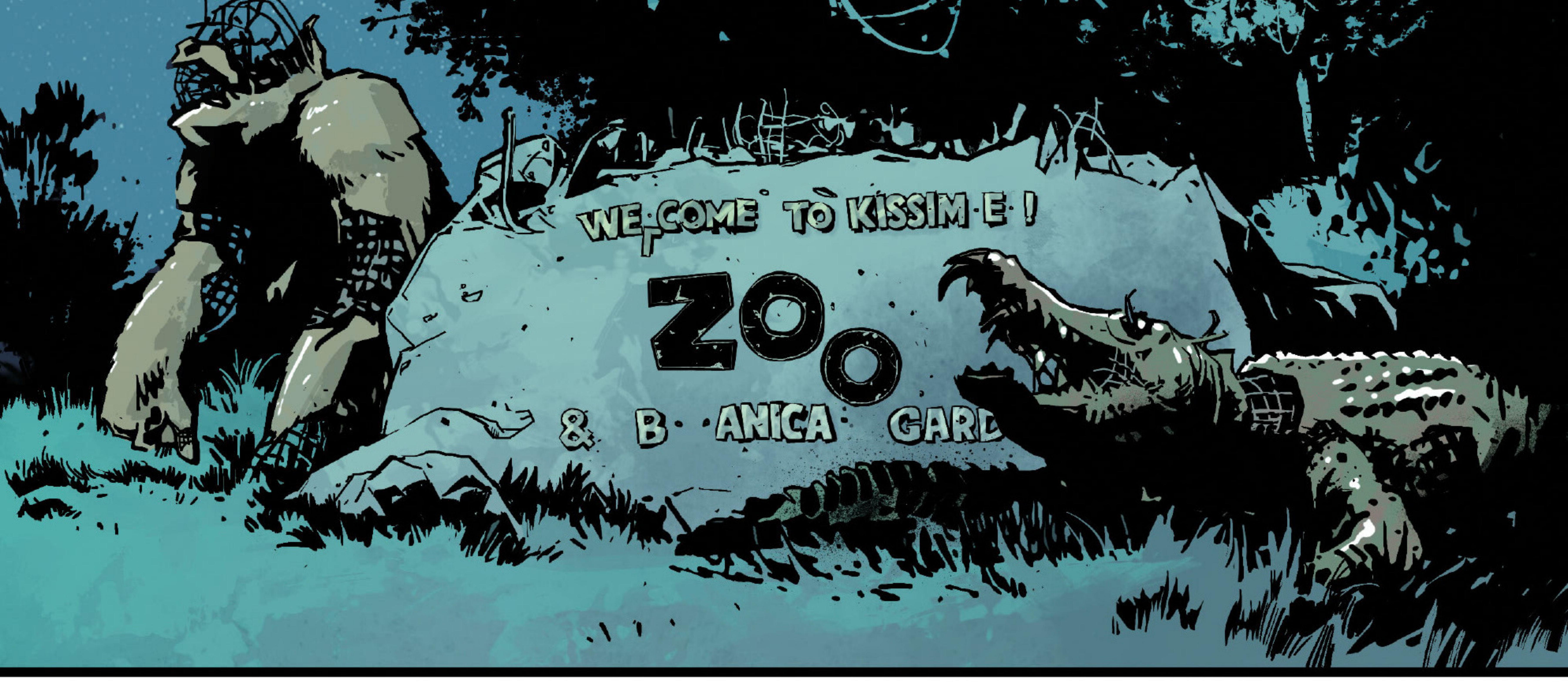
WASTELANDERS:

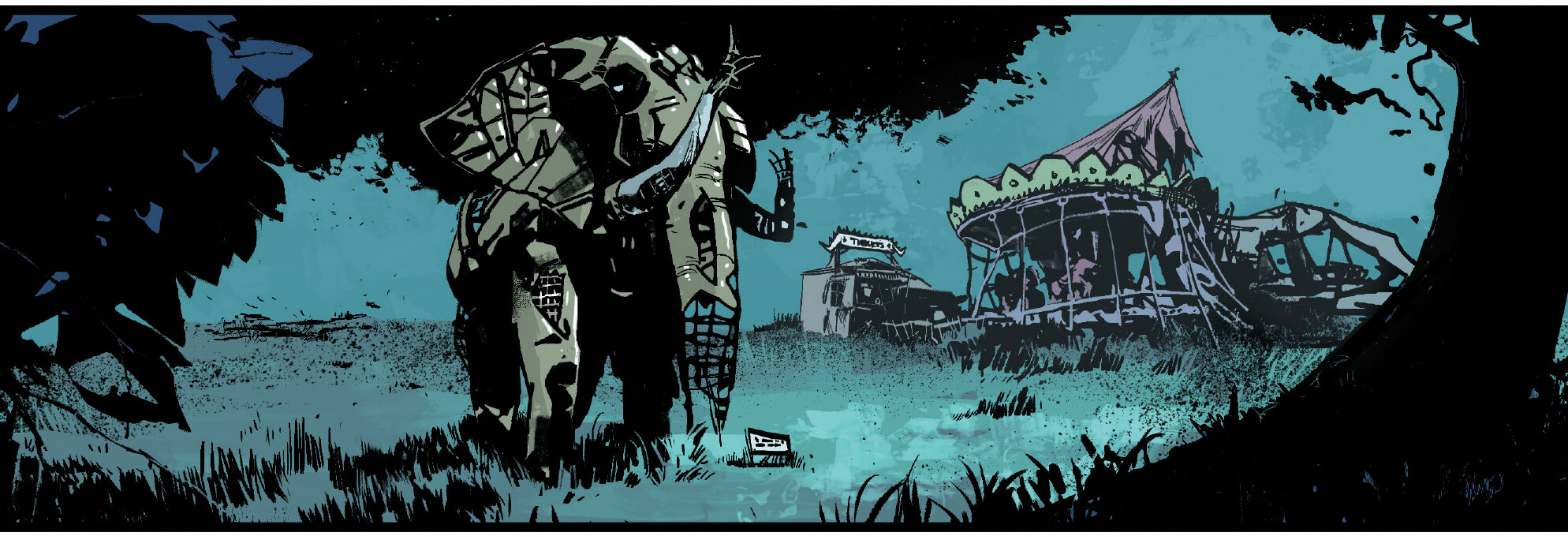
BLACK WIDOW

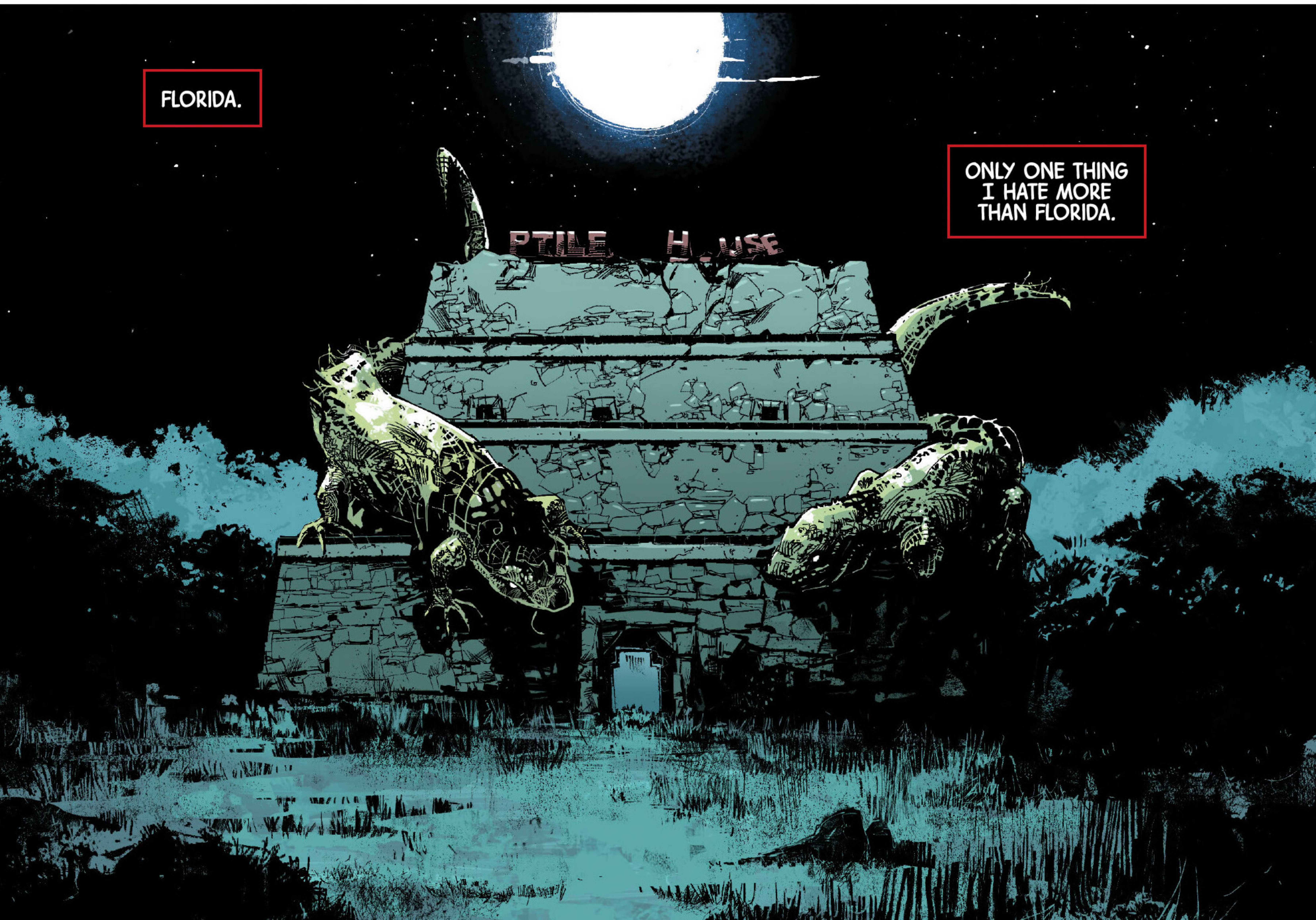
WASTELANDERS

BLACK WIDOW

THE AVENGER AND SUPERSPY KNOWN AS THE BLACK WIDOW WAS KILLED ALONGSIDE HER FELLOW HEROES IN THE VILLAIN UPRISING. BUT IN THE DECADES SINCE, HUSHED RUMORS OF SIGHTINGS OF THE ELUSIVE BLACK WIDOW HAVE REVERBERATED ACROSS THE CONTINENT...


WE COME TO KISSIM E !
ZOO
& B ANICA GARD



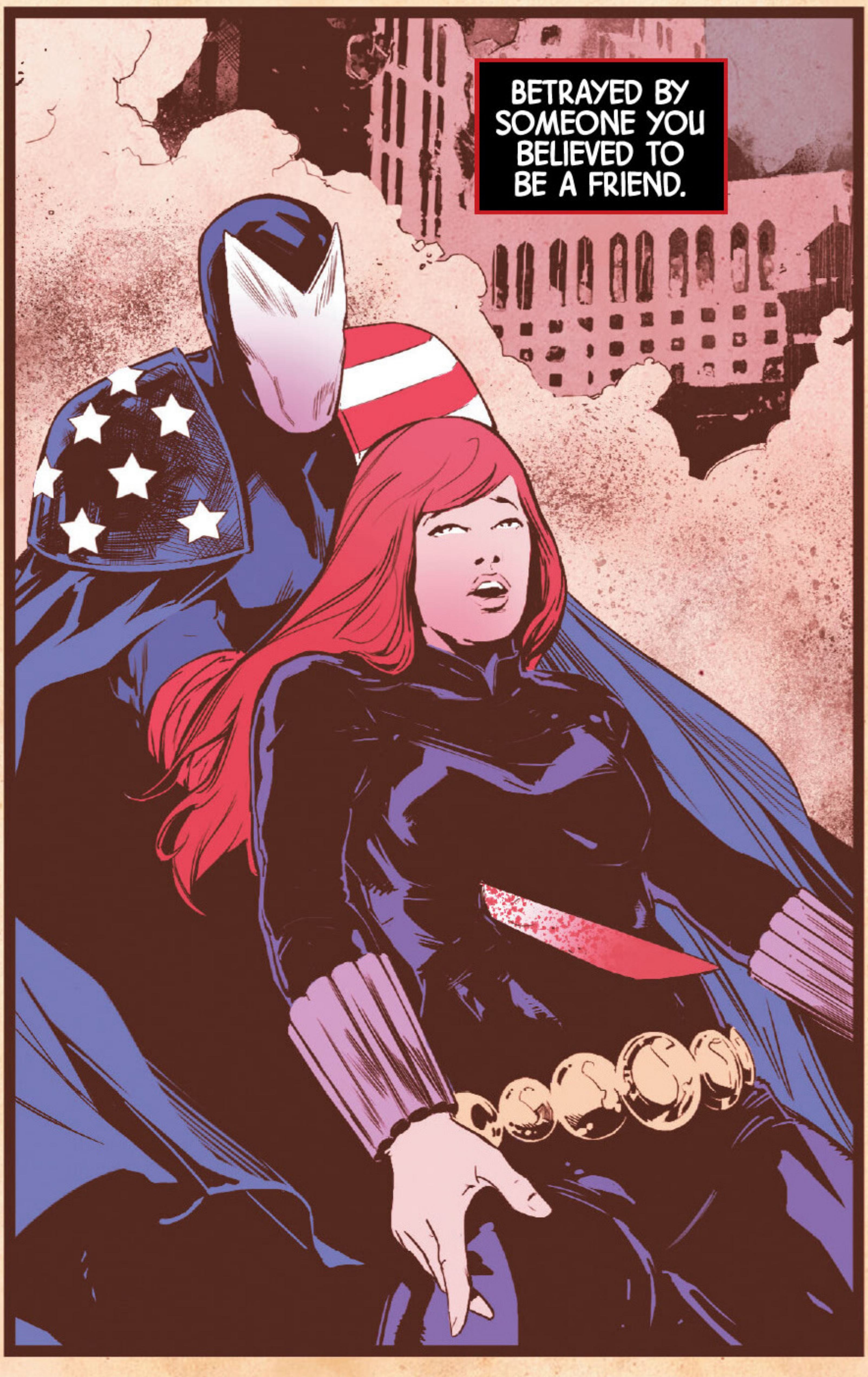

FLORIDA.
PTILE H USE
ONLY ONE THING I HATE MORE THAN FLORIDA.

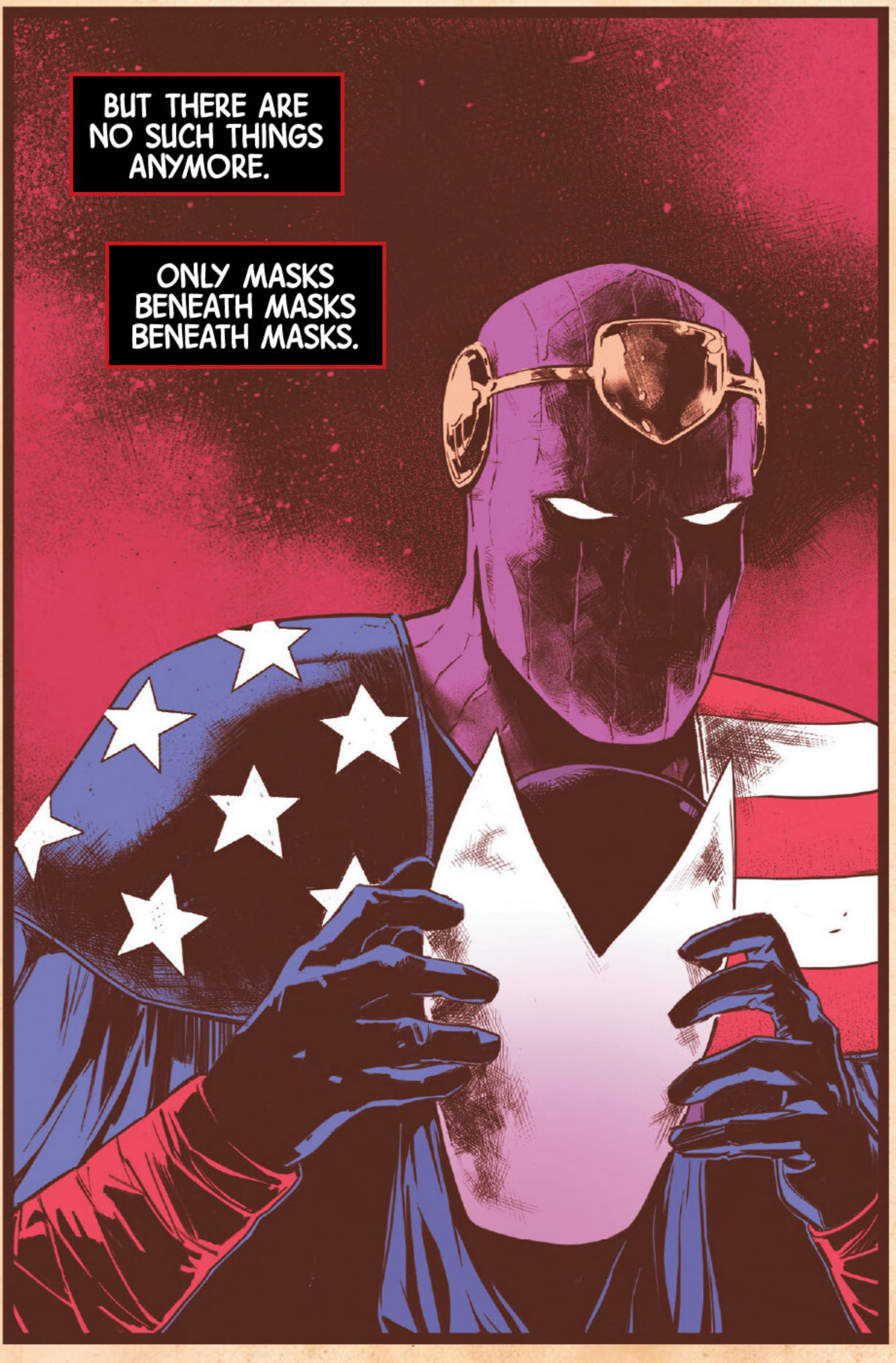
LIZARDS.
THE PRISONER STILL HASN'T GIVEN US ANYTHING WE CAN USE, MY KING. BUT HE'LL TALK. EVERYONE DOES.
SOONER OR LATER.
THE DOMAIN OF THE LIZARD KING.

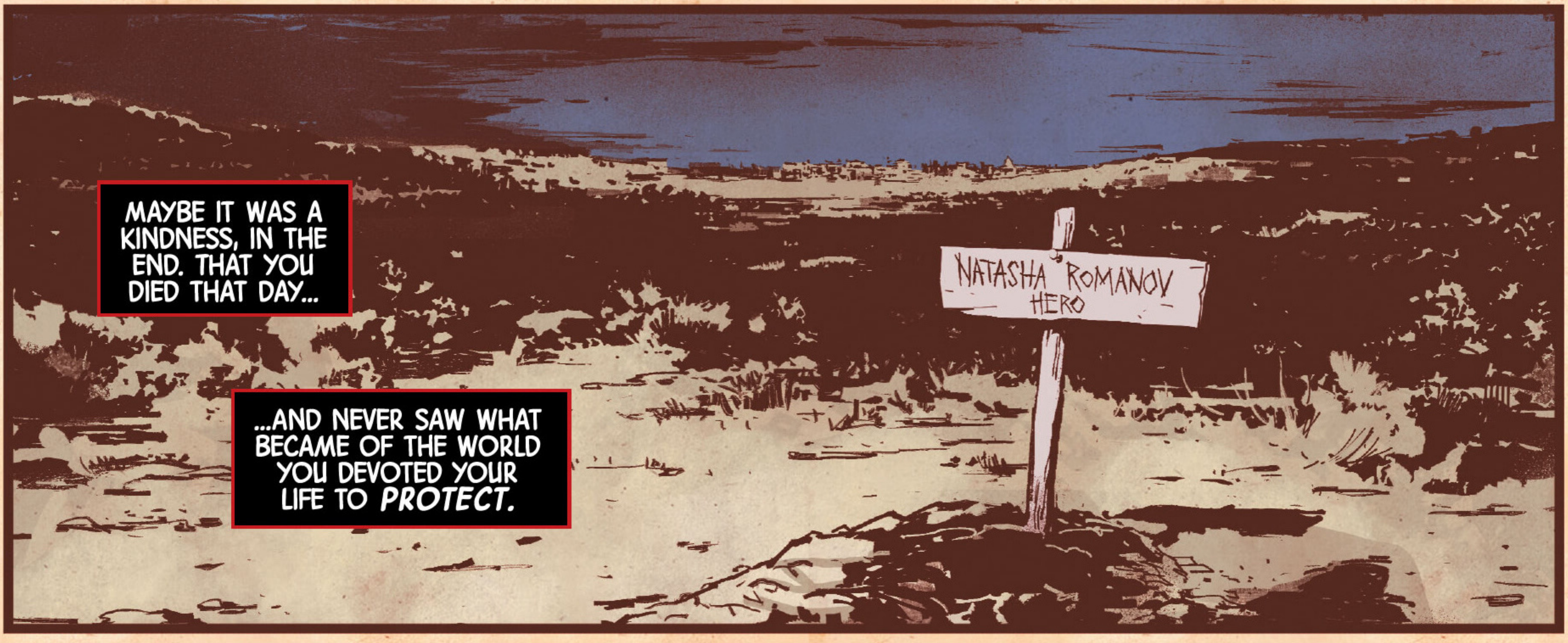
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I WOULD HAVE DROPPED DOWN AND BEATEN THE @#$% OUT OF ANYTHING THAT MOVED.
AND STILL HAVE RESCUED THE PRISONER WITHOUT BREAKING A SWEAT.
BUT THAT WAS A LIFETIME AGO. BEFORE THE WASTELANDS.
BEFORE THEY TOOK *YOU* AWAY FROM ME.

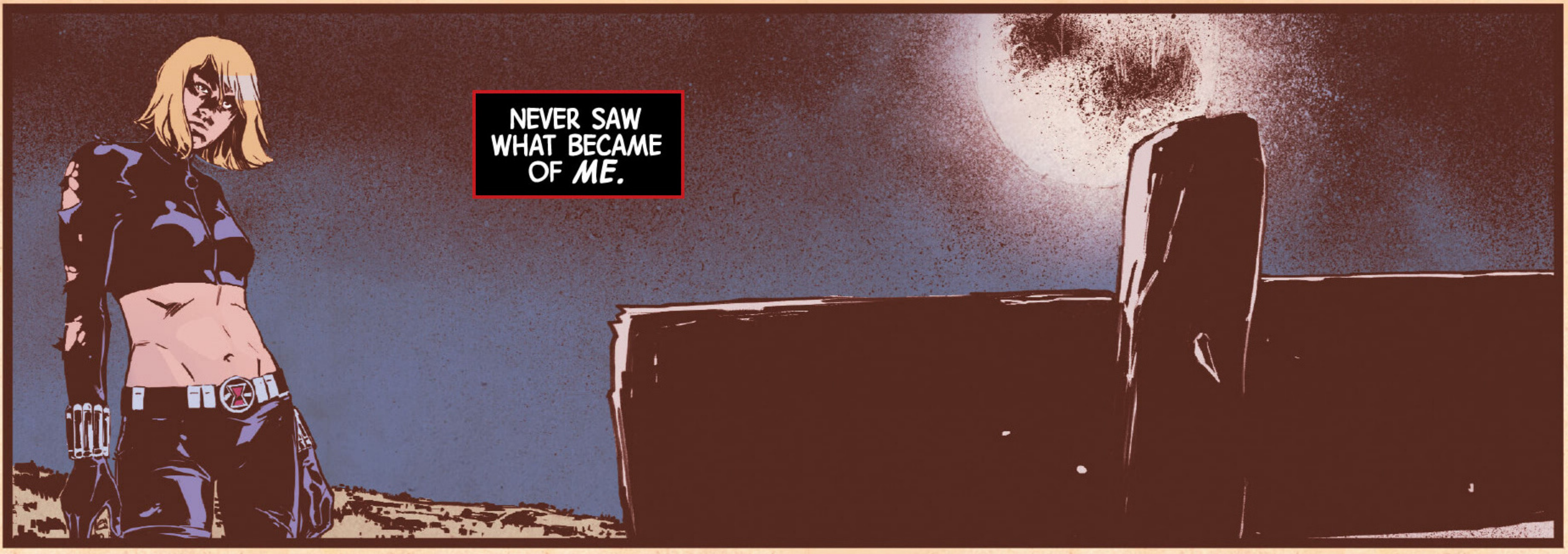
THEN.
EVERY MISSION DOESN'T ALWAYS HAVE TO BE A FIGHT, YELENA.
SKREEEEEEE
STEALTH IS JUST AS POWERFUL A WEAPON AS YOUR FISTS.
BUT FISTS ARE A LOT MORE FUN.
OF COURSE THEY'RE MORE FUN. BUT AS THE YEARS PASS, YOU'LL GET SLOWER AND SLOWER.
UNTIL ONE DAY, A FRACTION OF A SECOND WILL THROW YOU OFF. AND COST YOU YOUR LIFE.

NOW.
I WAS TOO YOUNG. TOO WILD TO HEAR YOU. TO LEARN FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE.
BUT YOU WERE RIGHT. THE YEARS HAVE TAKEN THEIR TOLL.
FTTTWOOOSH
BUT AT LEAST I HAVE THE BENEFIT OF FEELING THE CLOCK WINDING DOWN TO THE INEVITABLE END ONE DAY.
TWAAANG
OUFFF!
YOU WERE ROBBED OF THAT PRIVILEGE. THE DAY THE VILLAINS TOOK OVER THE WORLD.

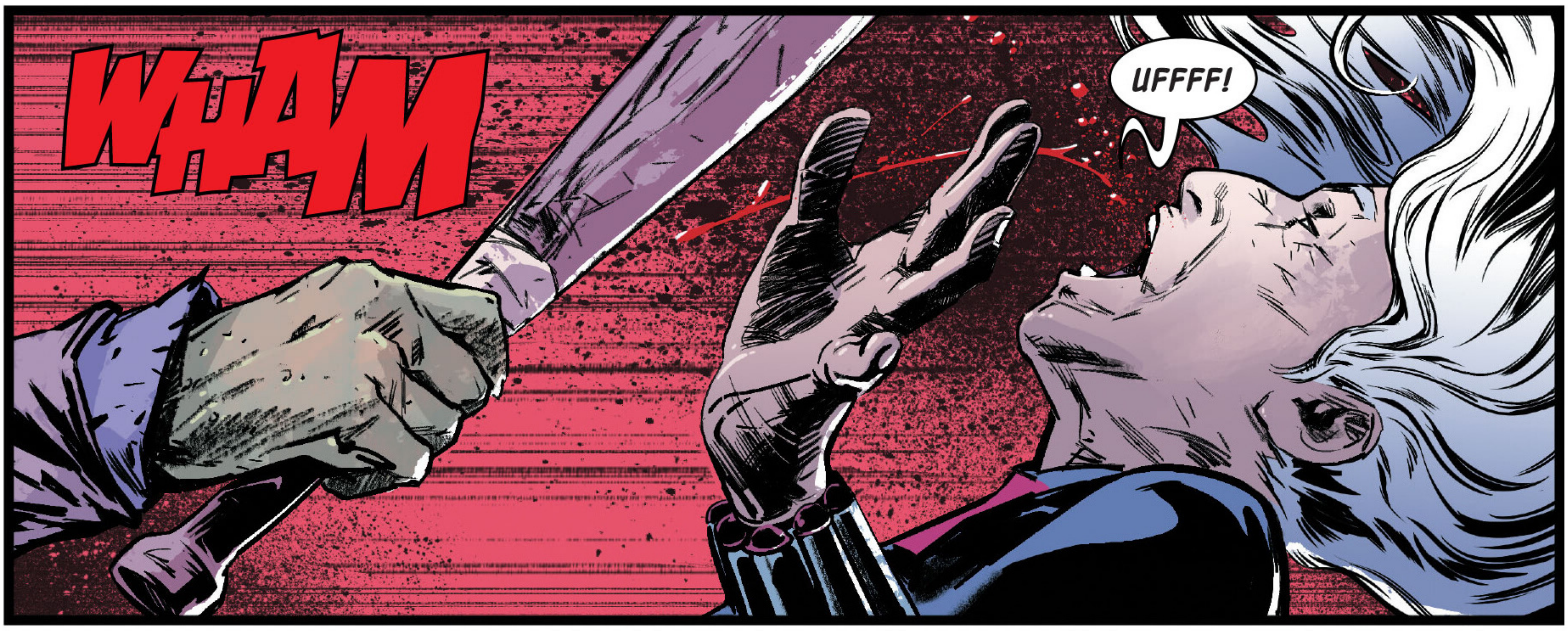

BETRAYED BY SOMEONE YOU BELIEVED TO BE A FRIEND.

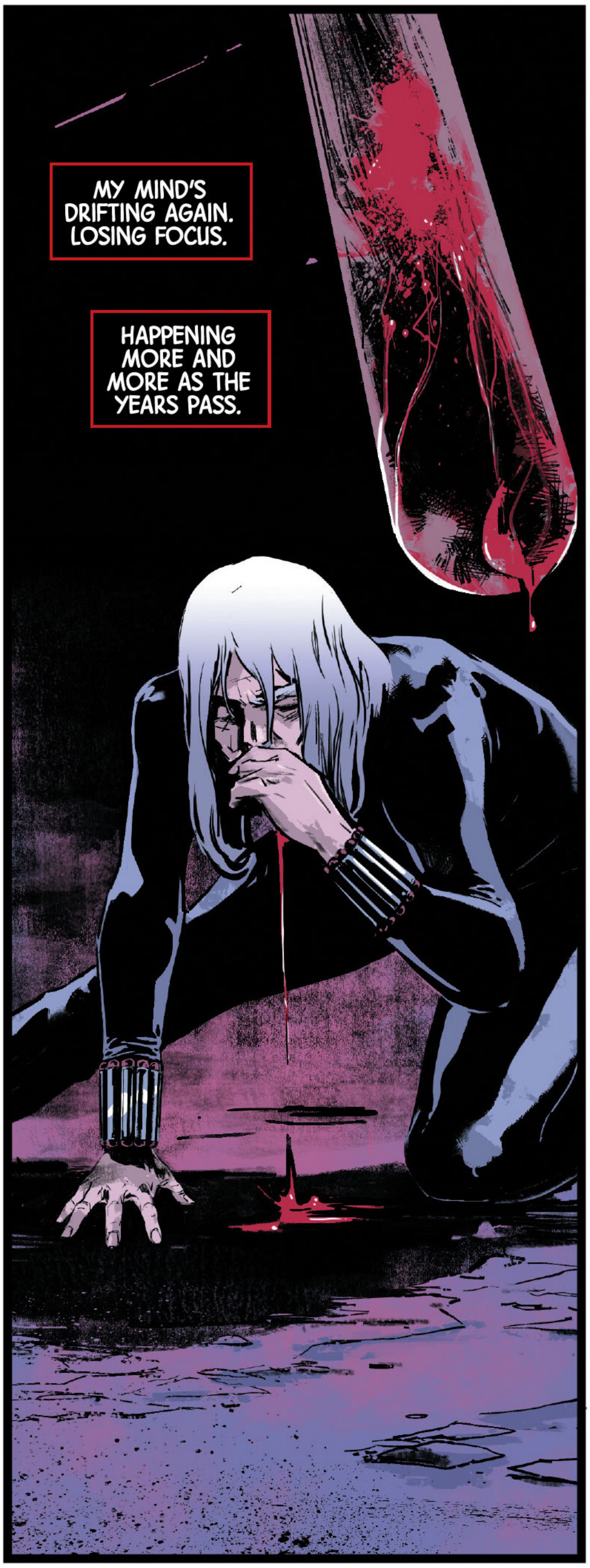

BUT THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS ANYMORE.
ONLY MASKS BENEATH MASKS BENEATH MASKS.

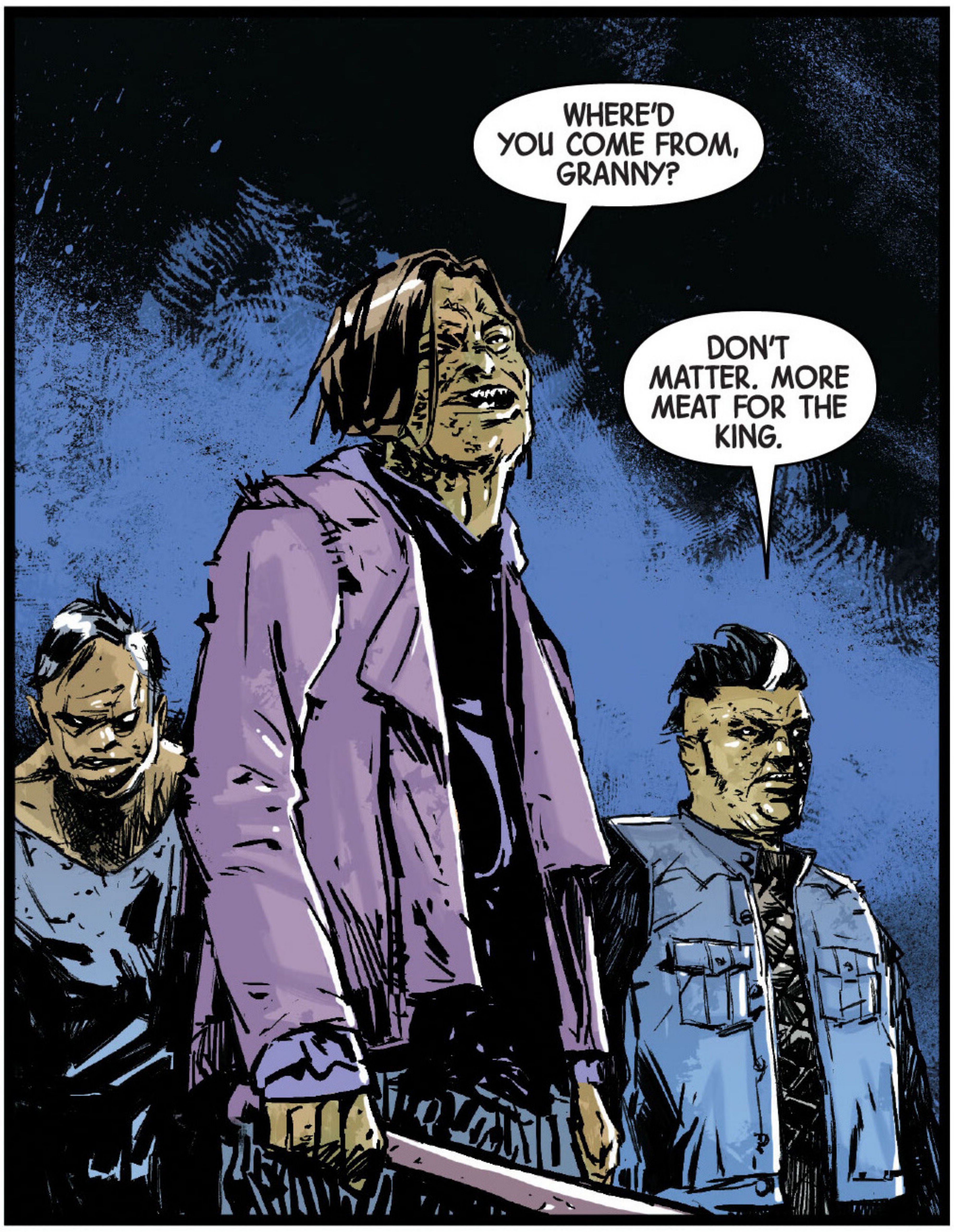

MAYBE IT WAS A KINDNESS, IN THE END. THAT YOU DIED THAT DAY...
NATASHA ROMANOV HERO
...AND NEVER SAW WHAT BECAME OF THE WORLD YOU DEVOTED YOUR LIFE TO *PROTECT.*

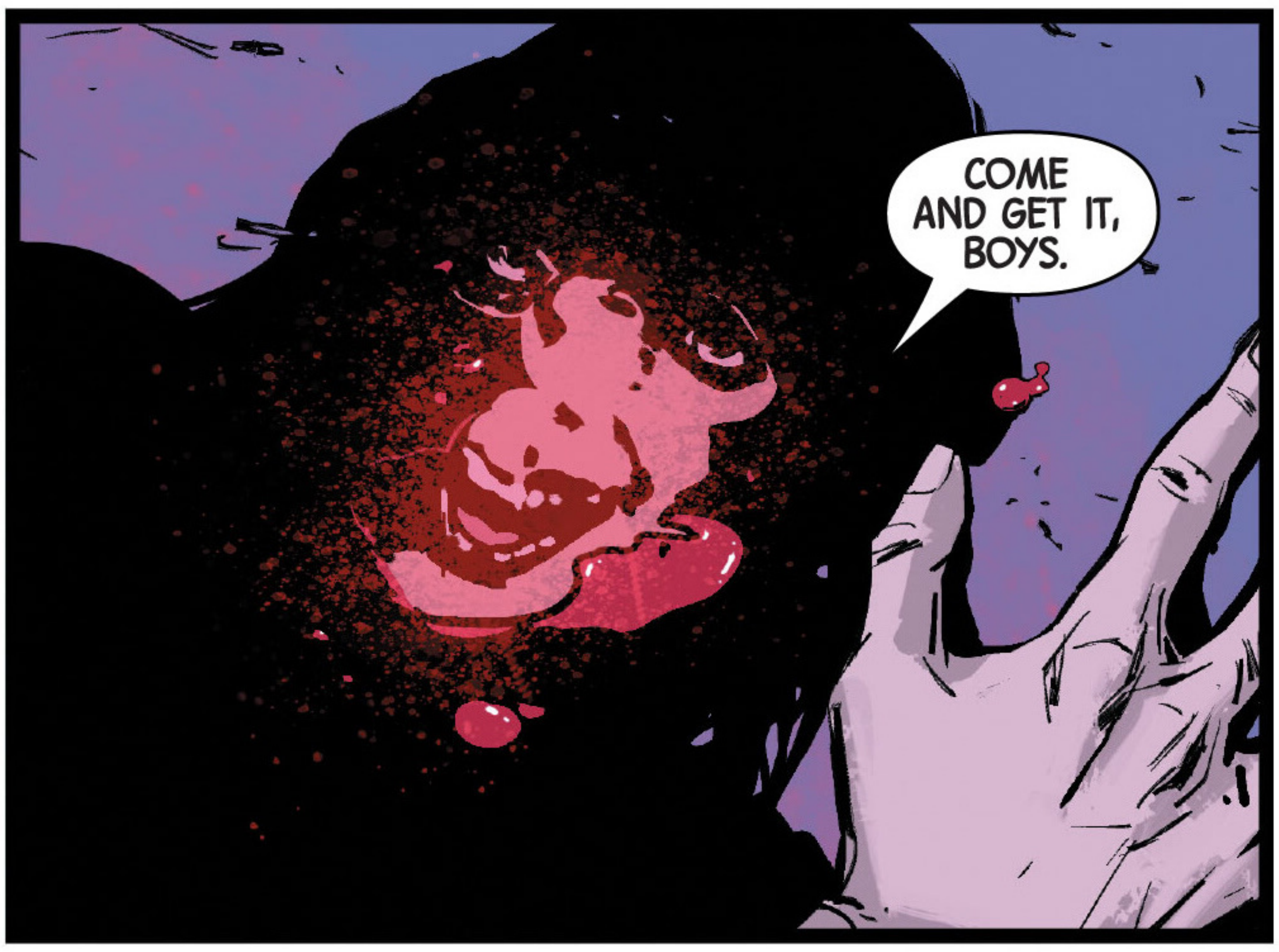

NEVER SAW WHAT BECAME OF *ME.*

I TRIED TO HONOR YOUR MEMORY.
BUT THIRST AND HUNGER HAD LESS NOBLE INTENTIONS.
KEEP MOVIN'. WE DON'T WANT NO TROUBLE.
ONE CANTEEN. OR ONE BROKEN ARM.
YOUR CHOICE.


WHAM
UFFFF!


MY MIND'S DRIFTING AGAIN. LOSING FOCUS.
HAPPENING MORE AND MORE AS THE YEARS PASS.


WHERE'D YOU COME FROM, GRANNY?
DON'T MATTER. MORE MEAT FOR THE KING.


COME AND GET IT, BOYS.

THE MUSCLES. THEY REMEMBER.
WHUFF!
THAKK
AGHHH!
SHRLLPP
GAAKKK!
EVEN WHEN THE MIND WANDERS...

THE MUSCLES.
THEY...
...ALWAYS...
...REMEMBER.

ENOUGH!
I HAVE CALCULATED A 97.8 PERCENT CHANCE OF GRIEVOUS INJURY TO BOTH SIDES IF THIS CONFLICT CONTINUES.
WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST? WE KISS AND MAKE UP?
NO. WE SUGGEST YOU HELP US OVERTHROW THE RED SKULL. AND SEIZE CONTROL OF WHAT'S LEFT OF THIS COUNTRY.
I SSSSMELL AN ITSSSSY BITSSSSY SSSSPIDER...

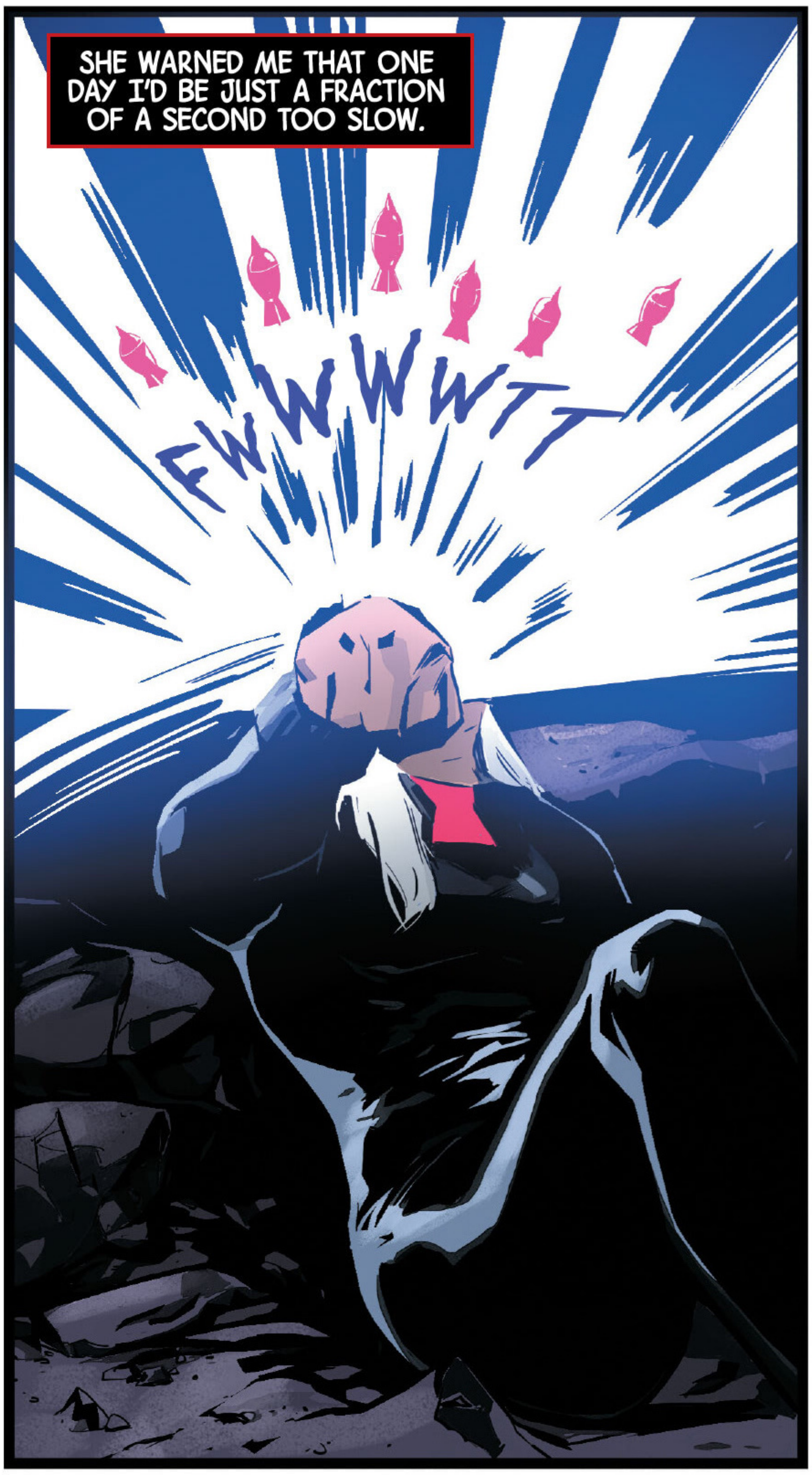
KRAKA-
@#$%!
THOOM

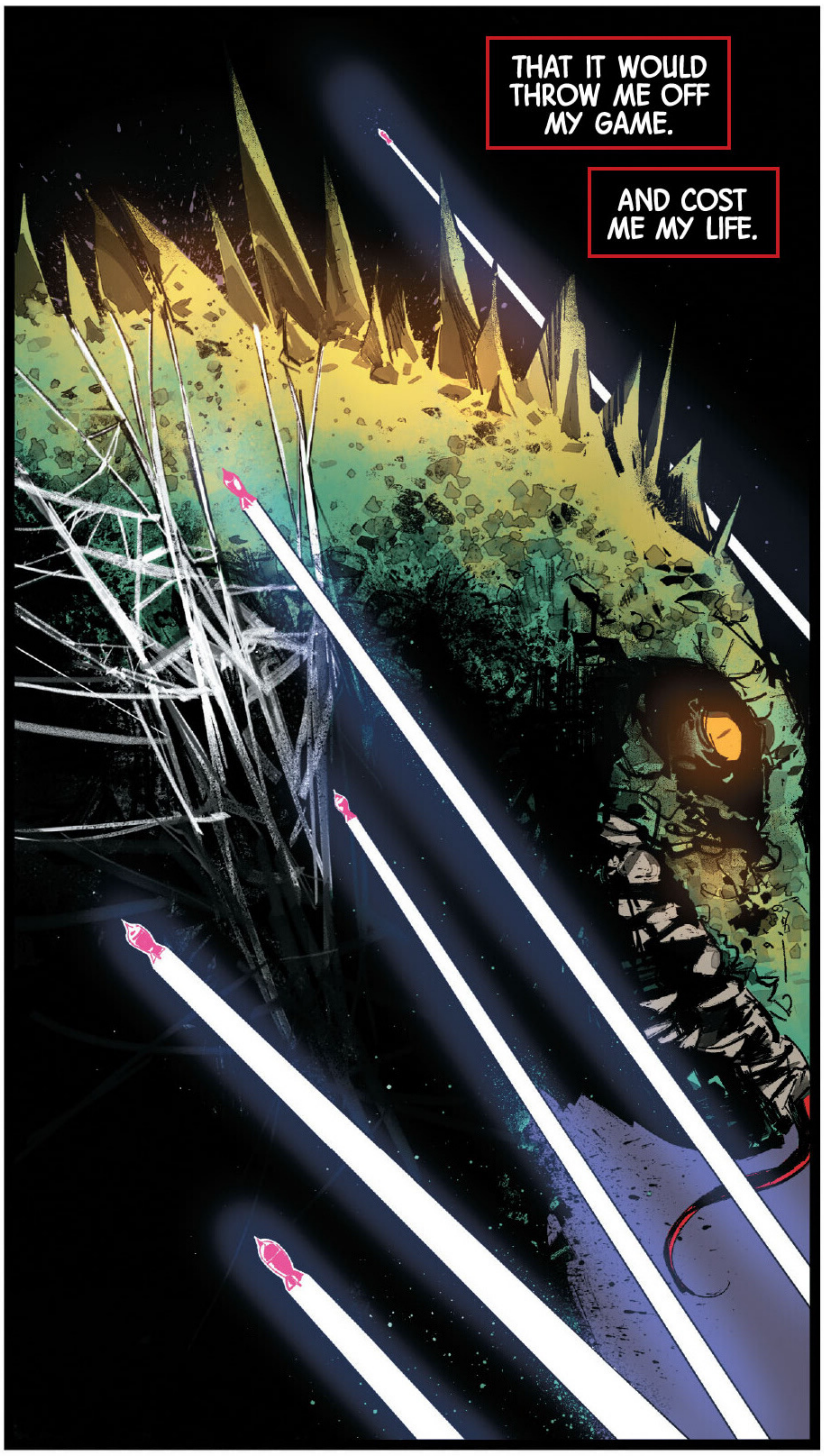
ZZZAP
AHHHHHHH...!!!
...HAHAHAHAHA...
...TICKLESSSS...!
"BE CAREFUL, ELIAS."

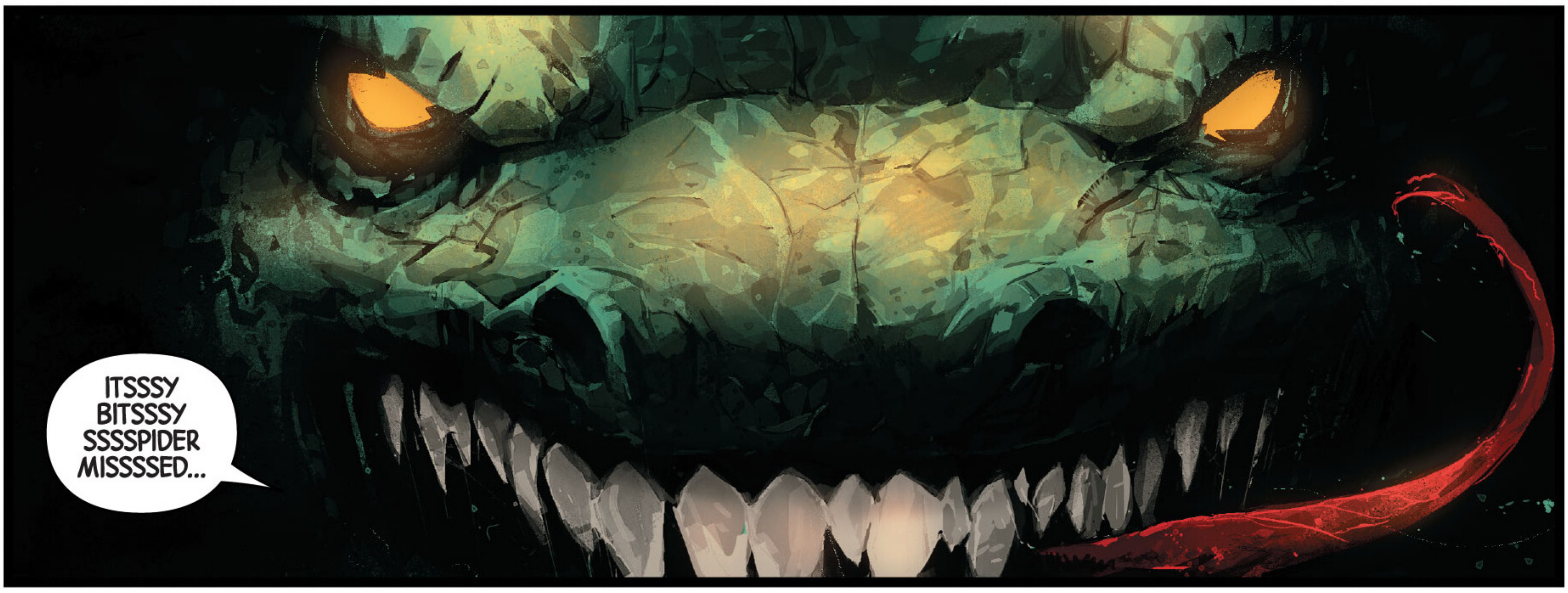
RETRIEVE THE INFORMATION FROM YOUR SOURCE ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN NEW YORK, AND HOW WE CAN USE IT AGAINST THE RED SKULL.
THEN GET THE HELL OUT.
YOU KNOW THIS ISN'T MY FIRST MISSION, RIGHT?
IT'S YOUR FIRST SO CLOSE TO THE LIZARD KING'S LAIR. YOU DO NOT WANT TO TANGLE WITH THAT OLD BASTARD.
IN AND OUT. LIKE A GHOST IN A VELVET SHEET. HE'LL NEVER EVEN KNOW I WAS THERE.
GOOD. I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO COME RESCUE YOUR ASS.
I HATE FLORIDA...

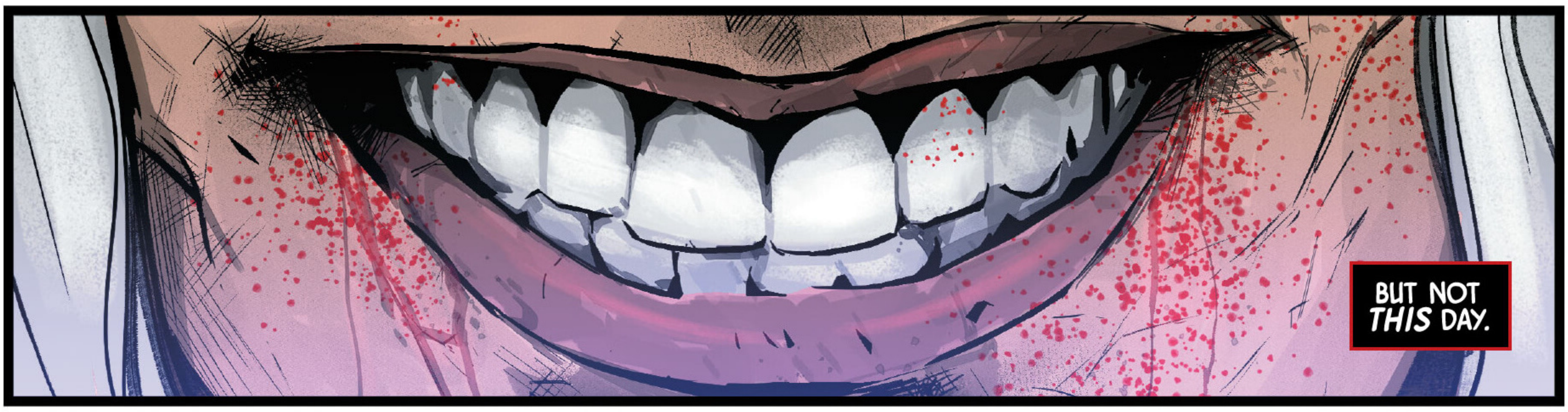
"...AND I REALLY HATE LIZARDS."
SLIIIKT
SNAP
HE'S TOO BIG.
TOO FAST.
OUFFF!
WHHACK!
FTWOOOSH

AND TOO DAMN *SMART.*
THUNK!
UUUFFFF!
TOYSSSS...
SSSSILLY LITTLE TOYSSSS...


SHE WARNED ME THAT ONE DAY I'D BE JUST A FRACTION OF A SECOND TOO SLOW.
FWWWWTT


THAT IT WOULD THROW ME OFF MY GAME.
AND COST ME MY LIFE.

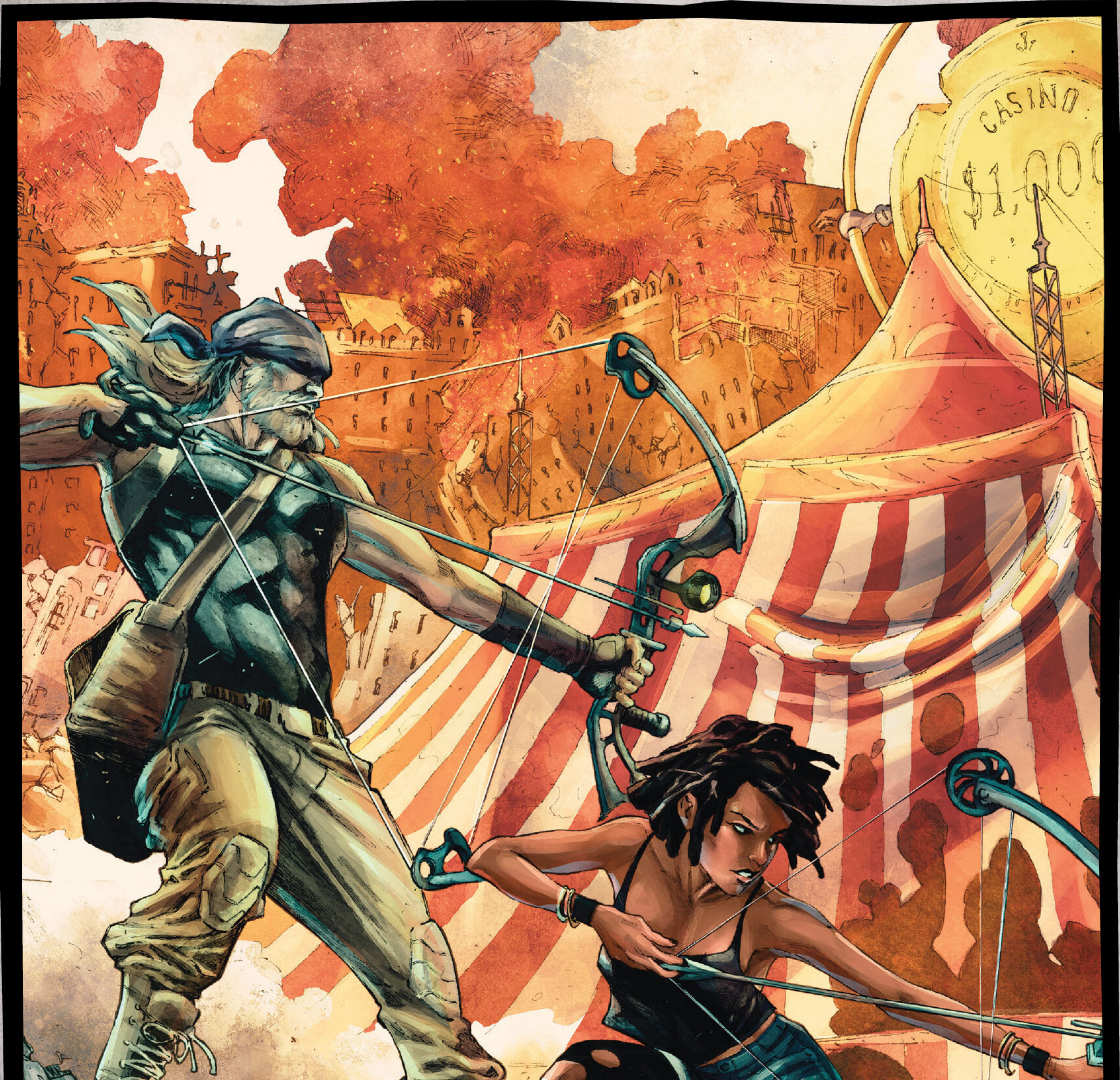

ITSSSY BITSSSY SSSSPIDER MISSSSED...


BUT NOT *THIS* DAY.

KRAKABOOM!
GAARRRGGGGHHHH!
SSSSSSS...
IT WON'T HOLD HIM LONG.

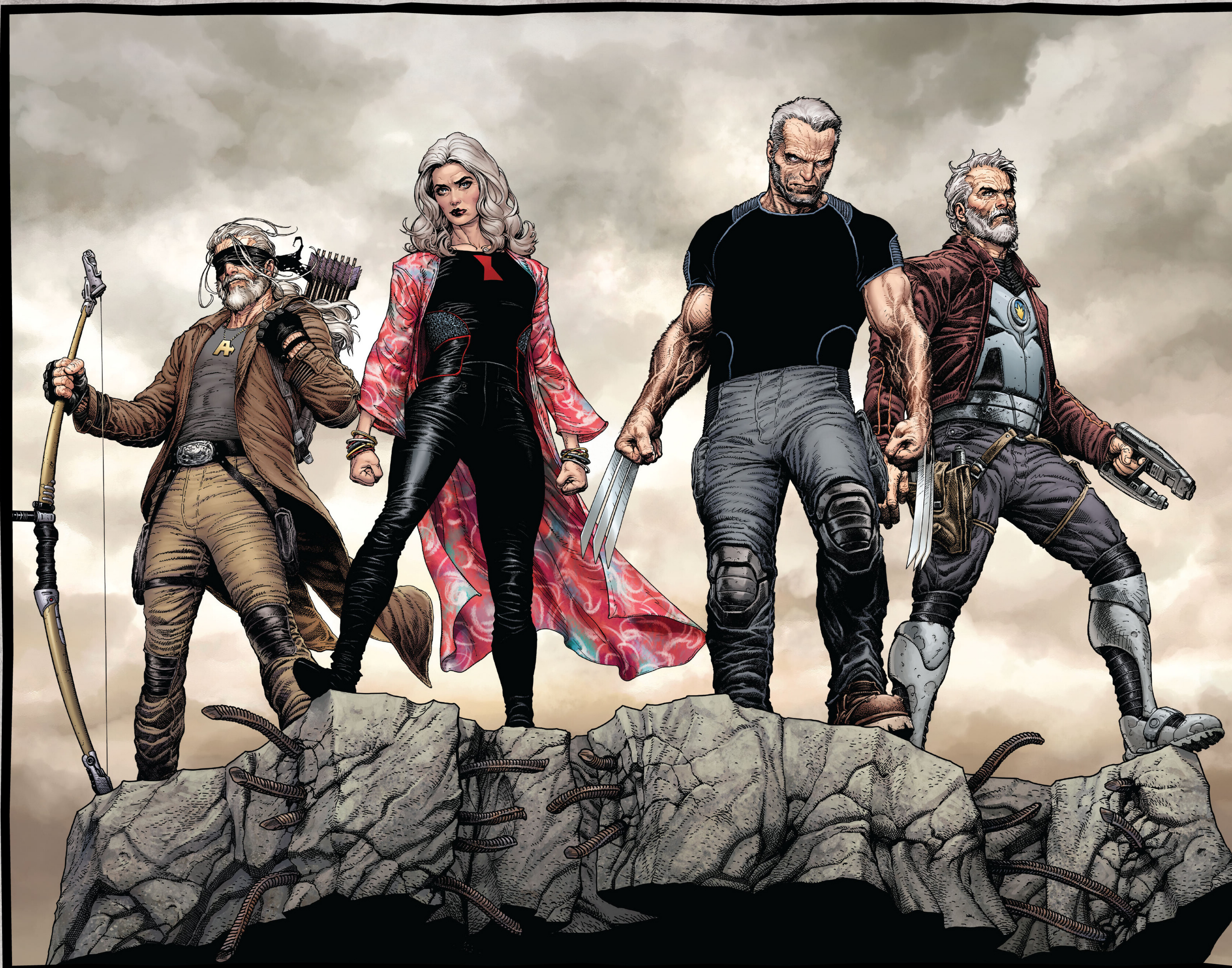
GYUUH...
RIBS ARE BROKEN. HAIRLINE FRACTURE IN THE LEG, MAYBE.
TOO HURT TO HELP ANYONE WHO CAN'T FIGHT.
YELENA...?
SHHHH. I'M GOING TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE, YOU @&#%&$ IDIOT.
CLICK!
WE NEED TO MOVE FAST AND QUIET. KEEP UP, AND DON'T FALL BEHIND--

HE... HE ATE THEM...
HE ATE THEM, BUT I DIDN'T TALK...
BUT YOU *WILL*, MY LOVE. EVERYONE DOES. SOONER OR LATER.
AND I CAN'T CARRY YOU OUT OF HERE, ELIAS.
I'M NOT HER. I'M NOT NATASHA.
I'M NOT EVEN *ME* ANYMORE.
I'M WHAT *THIS WORLD* HAS MADE ME.
WE COME TO KISSIM E !
ZOO
& B ANICA GARD
AND WITH THE DAYS I HAVE LEFT, I'M GOING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
AND GOD HELP THOSE WHO STAND IN MY PATH.
END.

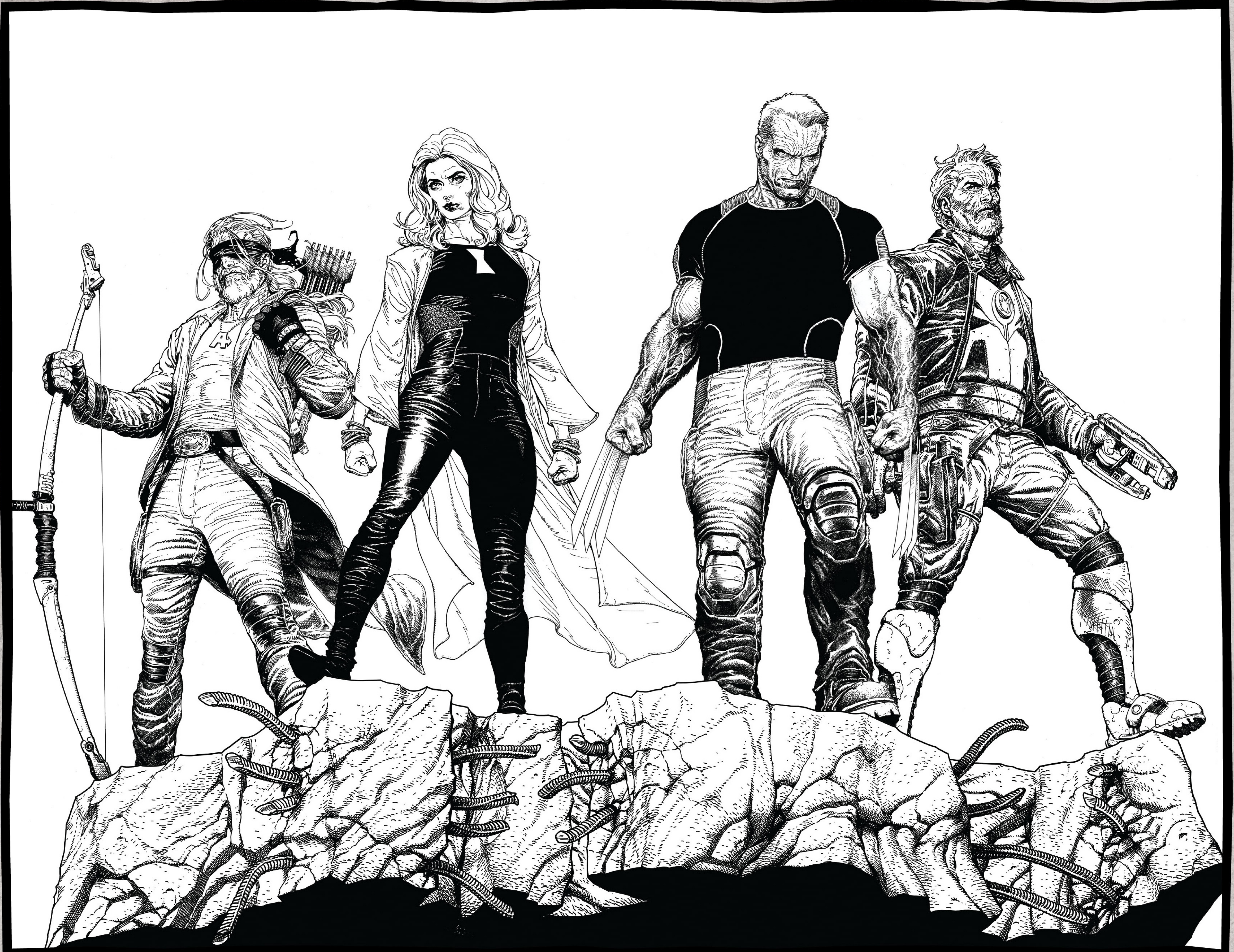

CASINO
$1,00
WELCOME
TO
Fabulous
AS VEG
NEVA

HAWKEYE PODCAST VARIANT BY

FRANCESCO MOBILI & ANDRES MOSSA



WOLVERINE & HAWKEYE CONNECTING PODCAST VARIANTS BY
STEVE McNIVEN & LAURA MARTIN



DOOM & BLACK WIDOW CONNECTING PODCAST BLACK & WHITE VARIANTS BY
STEVE McNIVEN

STAR-LORD PODCAST VARIANT BY

WILL SLINEY & RACHELLE ROSENBERG

KAMIC RIDER MARIKA